

Disproven Vaccine Conspiracies

October 22, 2021

This document was prepared on October 22, 2021 by Nicole Volpe. Nicole works for North Yorkers for Disabled Persons as an Outreach Communication Facilitator, Information Referral and Resources Support. She can be reached at nicole.nydp@gmail.com. This document is not meant to provide or take the place of medical advice, diagnosis or treatment, or legal advice.

Myth: The Covid-19 vaccine makes you magnetic

In early June, Dr. Sherri Tenpenny, based in Cleveland, claimed that COVID-19 vaccines could turn people into magnets due to 5G telecommunication towers. While addressing Ohio lawmakers, she used her claim to justify the need for a bill to stop businesses and government agencies from requiring vaccinations. She stated that "They can put a key on their forehead, it sticks. They can put spoons and forks all over them, and they can stick." * [_](#)

"It's difficult to say anything about this except it's clearly untrue. If this is the case, it's strange that we haven't seen all of our neighbors who are vaccinated walking around with metal on them. I've been vaccinated, and I can assure you I'm not magnetic," said [Dr. William Schaffner](#), professor of preventive medicine and infectious diseases at Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville, in a statement provided to Healthline. * [_](#)

For a [list of ingredients](#) in the COVID vaccines, visit the CDC website.

Myth: The government put a microchip in the Covid-19 vaccines to track you

A conspiracy theory came out suggesting that Microsoft billionaire Bill Gates' vaccine advocacy efforts were a ploy to create a global surveillance system that has continued to be disproven. People have continued to try to push these false narratives continuing to go back to the myth that people can use magnets to identify the microchips in their arms. * [_](#)

There is absolutely no evidence to back this claim

"That's just not possible as far as the size that would be required for that microchip," said Dr. Matt Laurens, a pediatric infectious disease specialist at the University of Maryland School of Medicine who is a co-investigator on the phase three trials of the [Moderna](#) and [Novavax](#) Covid vaccines. "Second, that microchip would have to have an associated power source, and then in addition, that power source would have to transmit a signal through at least an inch of muscle and fat and skin to a remote device, which again, just doesn't make sense." * [_](#)

Myth: The Covid-19 vaccine makes you infertile

As per the Government of Ontario website, it states that pregnant people are at an increased risk for severe outcomes due to COVID-19. They have noted that evidence shows that mRNA COVID-19 vaccines are safe for people who are pregnant or breastfeeding. The National Advisory Committee on Immunization recommends you get a complete series with an mRNA vaccine if you're pregnant or breastfeeding.

However, there is no evidence that any vaccines, including COVID-19 vaccines, cause fertility

problems.*

“There is no scientific reason that the vaccine would impact fertility. This is not a concern at all. It is true though that we don’t have research related to the use of vaccine in women who are trying to conceive or pregnant because they were not studied in clinical trials. It’s always wise to have a conversation with your health care provider to help you decide what is right for you” said Dr. Jerome Leis who is the Medical Director of Infection Prevention and Control at Sunnybrook.*

- [Vaccination and pregnancy](#)
- [The Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada: COVID-19 vaccination in pregnancy](#)
- [Pregnant, breastfeeding or trying to conceive? Answers to your COVID-19 vaccine questions](#)

Myth: Vaccines cause autism

In 1998, British doctor Andrew Wakefield conducted research that claimed a connection between autism and the measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccine. While the study was published in the reputable journal Lancet, it was later retracted and found to be unethical and not factual. Wakefield also lost his license in the United Kingdom; however, Wakefield’s misinformation has continued to spread for decades.*

The Lancet completely retracted the Wakefield paper in February 2010, admitting that several elements in the paper were incorrect, contrary to the findings of the earlier investigation. Yet anti-vaxxers continue to cling to this infamous mythology. In doing so, we have seen outbreaks of life-threatening diseases thought to be eradicated emerge once again, such as whooping cough and measles. Today, so-called vaccine truthers continue to claim that vaccines overwhelm the infant immune system, that natural immunization is better than vaccination and that vaccines themselves contain toxins or actually give you the disease.*

“I’ve researched autism for more than a decade. Specifically, I’ve investigated how some antibodies in expecting mothers could complicate fetal development and lead to the condition. Through all my research and that of my colleagues, one thing is clear: Vaccines are not the cause of autism. And yet, that connection is on the tip of many tongues.” States Lior Brimberg, assistant professor at the Feinstein Institutes for Medical Research.*

In conclusion

We are seeing an immense amount of misinformation regarding vaccines come out into the media especially in the last couple of years, so we always recommend ensuring that you conduct your own research in order to make informed decisions regarding vaccine information and your health, using reputable sources.

—

If you think you may be experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, take the self-assessment at www.ontario.ca/coronavirus. Follow all directions from your medical provider or your local health unit at the following phone numbers:

Telehealth Ontario: 1-866-797-0000

Toronto Public Health: 416-338-7600

Peel Public Health: 905-799-7700

Durham Region Health Department: 905-668-7711

York Region Public Health: 1-877-464-9675