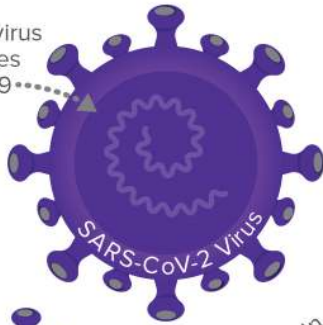


# How does messenger RNA (mRNA) in COVID-19 vaccines work?

This is the virus that causes COVID-19



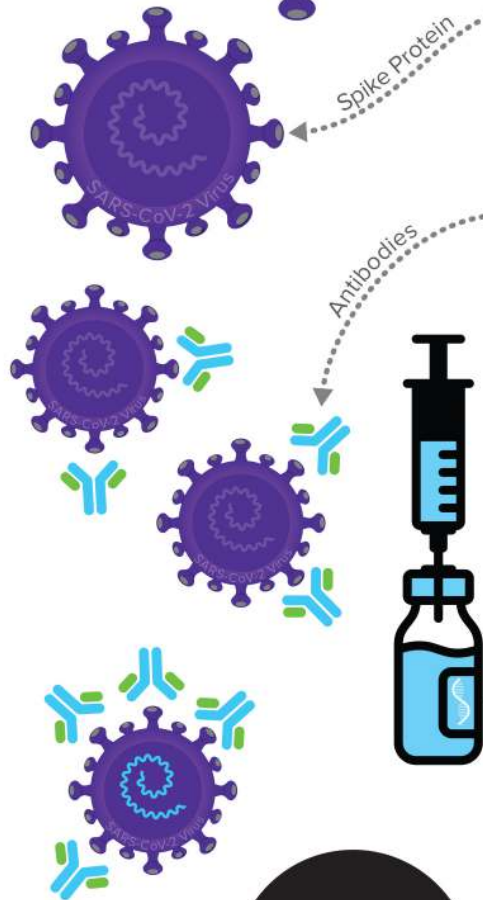
mRNA vaccines use a small, harmless part of the COVID-19 virus's genetic material. This is NOT the virus itself.

Inside your body, mRNA vaccines teach your body to create a protein called the "spike protein." You've seen it in drawings on the outside of the Coronavirus.

Your body's immune system recognizes these spike proteins. It jumps into action, making antibodies that help you fight the virus if you are exposed to it. That is called an immune response.

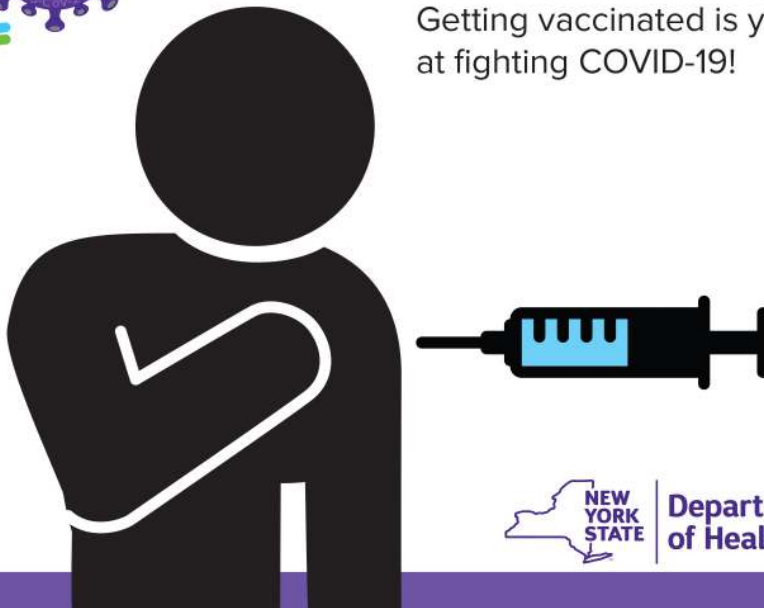
It's important to remember:

- The mRNA vaccine does not change your personal genes.
- It does not contain a live virus.
- It cannot give you COVID-19.



Messenger RNA (mRNA) vaccines are new. But they've been studied for 10 years.

Getting vaccinated is your best "shot" at fighting COVID-19!



Department of Health

