



Ministry of Health and Social Services

What You Should Know About COVID-19 Vaccines





COVID-19 Vaccines

A vaccine is medicine that:

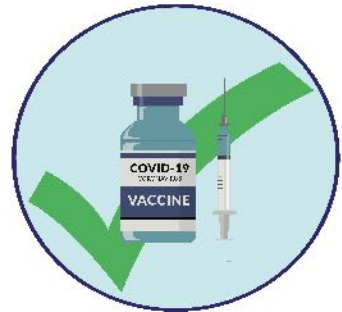
- helps people fight a virus if they come in contact with it
- can stop people from getting very sick from the virus.



COVID-19 vaccines reduce the risk of passing the virus on to:

- your family
- your community.

A **vaccination** is when you receive an injection of the vaccine. This is done with a needle.



The COVID-19 vaccines are provided free of charge by the government. Contact your local clinic or call **0800 100 100** to find out where you can get vaccinated.

Myths you may have heard about the vaccines



“You will get COVID-19 from the vaccine”

You can't get the virus from the vaccine. It makes your body better able to fight COVID-19.

“The vaccines will make you sick or kill you”

As of July 2021, more than 3,500,000,000 vaccinations have been given across the world – more than 1/3 of the world's population. Countries where most people are vaccinated have far fewer cases of COVID-19. Vaccines help us.

“My natural immune system is stronger than a vaccine”

The vaccines make your body much stronger, and stronger for longer, than if you recover from COVID-19.

“The vaccines were developed too quickly”

Similar vaccines for other viruses have been researched for more than ten years. The scientists and doctors adapted those vaccines, so they were quicker.

“There is a computer chip or magnets in the vaccine”

This is not true, it's a made up story.

What is a side effect



After you have your vaccination, you might feel some side effects.

A side effect is something that can happen to people after they take medicine.



Side effects are a sign that the vaccine is teaching your body how to fight the virus.



Side effects don't happen to everyone. Most side effects are not serious, and go away on their own in a few days.



Common side effects:

- Pain or swelling in your arm where the needle went in
- a fever
- sore muscles or joints
- tiredness
- headaches.



Serious side effects:

Serious side effects are very rare, but you should go to your local MoHSS clinic, or call 0800 100 100 straight away if, after the vaccination, you:

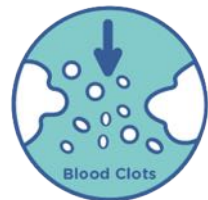
- have trouble breathing
- feel a very fast heartbeat
- fall down or faint



Around 6 in every 1,000,000 people may get a very rare side effect where blood clots form. They prevent blood from flowing normally through the body.



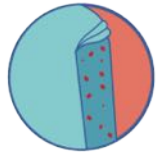
This is very rare, and most people have been vaccinated without any problems.



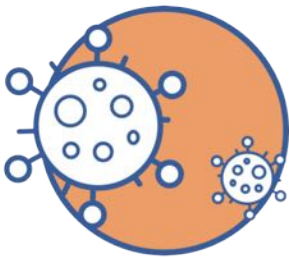


If you do feel unusually sick during the two weeks after vaccination you should visit your clinic urgently.

Symptoms include: a very bad headache or stomach ache that won't go away, blurred vision, swollen legs, or spots of blood under the skin not near where the injection was given.



After the vaccination



The vaccine makes it less likely that you get COVID-19, but some people might still get infected after their vaccination.



People who are vaccinated are normally less sick from COVID-19 than people who are not vaccinated.

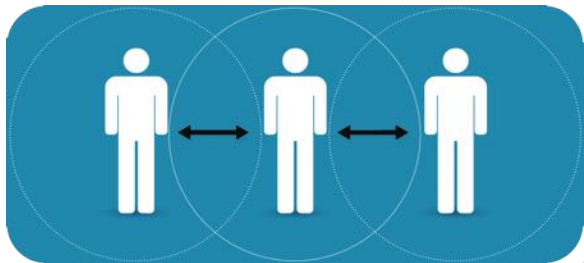


After the vaccination, you might still need a COVID-19 test if you have any COVID-19 symptoms, including:

- fever
- sore throat
- cough
- tiredness
- shortness of breath
- losing your sense of taste or smell.



You still need to wear a mask and social distance from other people after vaccination.



These measures remain in place until the national COVID-19 infection rate is lower.

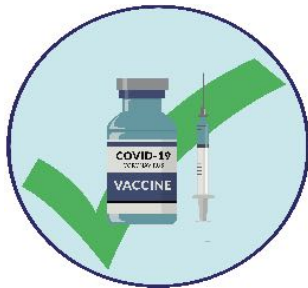


More information



Talk to your local healthcare worker, nurse or doctor.

Call the National Coronavirus Hotline on **0800 100 100**.



Remember, vaccination for COVID-19 is provided free of charge by the government.



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