



## Vaccine Assist Programme

# Frequently Asked Questions about the COVID-19 vaccine

Our trained counsellors and  
healthcare professionals are  
waiting to assist you on

**0800 24 36 72**

The contact centre is  
available on weekdays  
between 8AM and 5PM  
and on weekends  
between 8AM and 1PM.

You can also contact us via  
WhatsApp on  
082 735 4472



## Is the COVID-19 vaccine safe?

Yes! All vaccines had to pass strict clinical tests before they were approved for use. No vaccine used in South Africa is made with live COVID-19 virus, so they can't infect you with the COVID-19 virus.

Since the vaccines were approved, millions of people around the world have been safely vaccinated.

## Does the COVID-19 vaccine work?

Yes! Vaccines currently approved for use in South Africa are safe and effective at preventing COVID-19.

Not only do they help protect people who are vaccinated from getting sick or severely ill with COVID-19, they may also help protect people around them.

COVID-19 vaccination is an important tool to help stop the pandemic, and you should get a COVID-19 vaccine as soon as you are eligible.

## What about the COVID-19 variants?

There are new variants of the virus that causes COVID-19 spreading around the world. Current data suggest that COVID-19 vaccines authorised for use in South Africa offer protection against most variants. However, some variants might cause illness in some people even after they are fully vaccinated.

## How long does protection from the COVID-19 vaccine last?

There is reason to believe that immunity from COVID-19 vaccines will last at least longer than six months. While we don't know exactly how long protection lasts for those who are vaccinated, what we do know is that COVID-19 has caused very serious illness and death for a lot of people. Getting a COVID-19 vaccine is a wise choice.

## Do I still need to wear a mask and avoid close contact with others once I have been vaccinated?

Yes! Until herd immunity is reached, enough people have been vaccinated and the infection is no longer spreading in communities, this remains an important safety measure.

## Does the COVID-19 vaccine have any side-effects?

After getting vaccinated, you may have some side effects, which are normal signs that your body is building protection. These side effects usually start within a day or two of getting the vaccine. The most common side effects include tenderness at the injection site, headache, fever, fatigue, chills or diarrhoea. These side effects range from mild to moderate, and may feel similar to a flu-like illness for a couple of days.

Most people will feel fine after their vaccination.

## What should I do if I have side-effects?

Call Dr M and her team at CareWorks or talk to your doctor about taking over-the-counter medicine for any pain and discomfort you may have after getting vaccinated.