



Vaccine Assist Programme

Frequently Asked Questions about COVID-19 vaccine eligibility

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



How do I get a COVID-19 vaccine?

There will be public and private vaccination centres throughout South Africa. You have to register on the Electronic Vaccine Data System during the phase you are prioritised to get an appointment.

There are 3 ways to register:
vaccine.enroll.health.gov.za
WhatsApp 'register': 0600 123 456
USSD: *134*832#

COVID-19 vaccines are an important tool to help stop the pandemic. Get a COVID-19 vaccine as soon as you can.

Can I choose the COVID-19 vaccine I want?

No. You should get the first COVID-19 vaccine that is available to you. Do not wait for a specific brand.

All currently authorised COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective. Once you are vaccinated, if you become infected with the COVID-19 virus, you will have the antibodies to fight the virus.

If I'm currently sick with COVID-19, can I have the vaccine?

No. It is not advisable to vaccinate people who are sick with COVID-19 or any other short-term illnesses, including viral fevers. It is better to wait until fully recovered.

If I'm pregnant, is it safe to get a COVID-19 vaccine?

Yes! No reports of significant side effects have been shared from thousands of pregnant women who have already received the COVID-19 vaccine globally.

In early reports, antibodies have been identified in babies born to women who have been vaccinated, which may indicate protection for these babies.

Pregnant women are at an increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19 when compared with non-pregnant women. Additionally, pregnant women with COVID-19 might be at increased risk of adverse pregnancy outcomes, such as preterm birth, compared with pregnant women without COVID-19.

If I've already had COVID-19, do I still need to get vaccinated?

Yes. You should be vaccinated regardless of whether you already had COVID-19. We do not know with absolute certainty how long you are protected from getting sick again after recovering from COVID-19. It is possible—although rare—that you could be infected with COVID-19 again.

If I get the flu vaccine, do I still need to get the COVID-19 vaccine?

Yes. Flu and COVID-19 viruses are not part of the same virus family. While the symptoms may be similar, their origins are different. The flu vaccination will not protect you against COVID-19. Only vaccines created for COVID-19, will be effective at protecting individuals from COVID-19.

The flu vaccine and COVID-19 vaccine should be given at least 14 days apart. While it doesn't really matter what order you get them in, it is recommended to prioritise the COVID-19 vaccine.