



THE BIG QUESTION:

IS THE COVID-19 VACCINE SAFE?

COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective

Millions of people around the world have already been safely vaccinated against COVID-19. All the vaccines had to pass strict medical tests to prove that they are safe, that they work, and that they are manufactured to a high quality.



Large-scale clinical trials found that COVID-19 vaccination prevented most people from getting highly effective against severe illness, hospitalisation and death due to COVID-19.

Before the vaccines were allowed to be used in South Africa, they had to pass additional tests set by the South African Health Products Regulatory Authority (SAHPRA). Only vaccines with approval from SAHPRA are being used in our programme.

How do vaccines protect us?

The COVID-19 vaccines work by creating an immune response to the COVID-19 virus. They teach your body to fight the virus without you having to fall ill.

This immunity helps you fight the virus if exposed. It typically takes about two weeks for the body to build protection after vaccination. That means it is possible you could still get COVID-19 soon after vaccination, because your body has not had enough time to build full protection.

What about the virus variants?

Scientists expect the COVID-19 vaccines to provide at least some protection against new virus variants. This is because these vaccines create a broad immune response, so any virus mutations should not make vaccines completely ineffective. Even if you are exposed to a new variant, the vaccines are effective at preventing serious illness and death.

How long will this protection last?

We know that vaccination will provide us with at least six month's immunity, but need to learn more about how long we will be protected for.



The CDC explains vaccine safety here:

[Are COVID-19 vaccines safe?](#)

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