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Ministry of Health

Everything You Need to Know

COVID-19 VACCINE

First Edition | 27 December 2020

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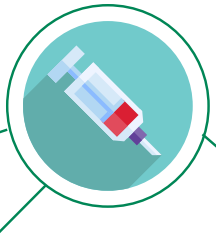
What is the importance of the COVID-19 vaccine?



It protects against infection with the Coronavirus.

It develops the response of the body's immune system safely and effectively.

It protects the body by preventing or controlling infection.

It will allow:

The lifting of the travel bans

The reduction of social distancing

The return of normal life gradually

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How do vaccines work?

Vaccines reduce the risk of infection by helping the body's natural defense for protection to safely develop immunity to disease

When the vaccine is given, the immune system responds by:

Recognizing the virus
as soon as it enters the body

It produces antibodies
(proteins that the immune system naturally produces to fight disease).

Remembers the disease
and how to fight it.

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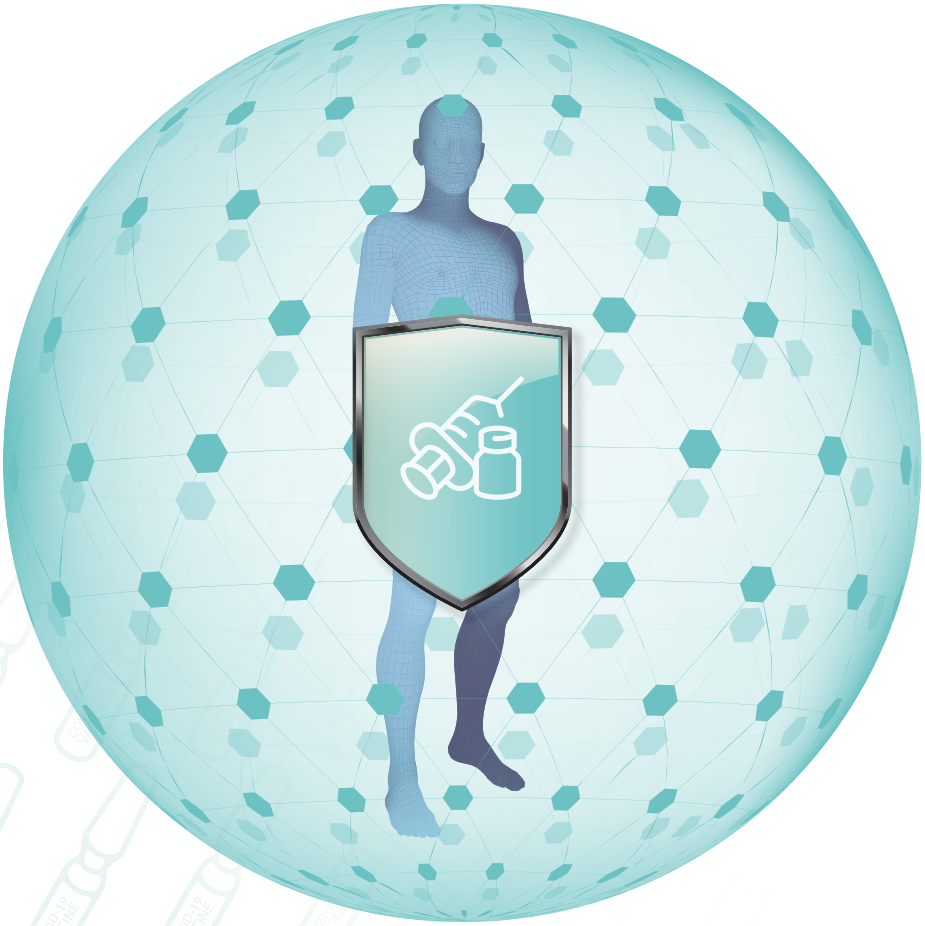
What happens to the body when taking one or more doses of the vaccine?



It produces an immune response without causing the disease, so instead of treating the disease after its occurrence, the vaccine will prevent the disease in the first place.

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How safe and effective is the vaccine?

The vaccine is considered safe due to the effective vaccine testing stages, its strong immune response and persistent antibodies.

- Examination and evaluation
- Formation of the experimental vaccine
- Clinical trials
- Testing stage
- Continuation of vaccine trials and testing
- Regulatory review and approval
- Clinical Comparison

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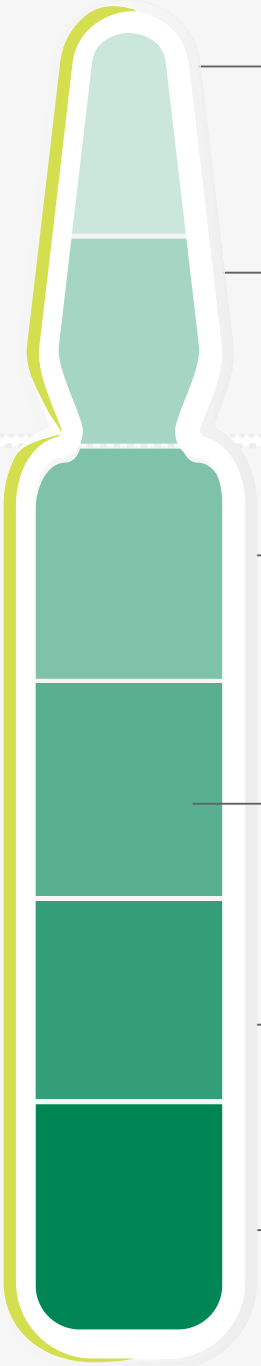
Vaccine Development Stages:

Preclinical stages

These stages are performed without human testing, and they include:



1 Examination and evaluation

Determine the type of **antigen** to be used to generate the immune response

2 Formation of the experimental vaccine

Animal testing for the vaccine to assess its safety and ability to prevent the disease.

Clinical stages

These stages are carried out on humans after the desired experimental vaccine is created, and they include:

1 Trials

The vaccine is given to **small groups** of healthy adult **volunteers** to test its safety.

2 Testing

The vaccine is given to people with **similar characteristics** of those targeted by the new vaccine.

3 Comparison

The vaccine is given at this stage to **thousands of volunteers** to test its effectiveness and safety.

4 Regulatory review and approval

After all results are available and regulatory approval is obtained and aligned with public health policies, vaccine trials and testing are carried out continuously to ensure it is still safe

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What are the Main Components of Vaccines?

Antigen:
A substance used to stimulate the human immune system and enable it to recognize the virus/bacteria targeted by the vaccine.

Stabilizers:
To prevent chemical reactions from occurring inside the vaccine and the vaccine components sticking to the vial.

Residual by-products:
Very little quantities of various preparations used during the manufacture or production of vaccines.

Preservative:
To prevent contamination of the vaccine after opening the vial.

Active substances:
To maintain a good mixture of all vaccine components.

Adjuvants:
A liquid used to dry the vaccine so that it reaches the correct concentration before use.

Auxiliary materials:
It is included in some vaccines to improve the immune response to the vaccine.

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10 FACTS About COVID-19 Vaccines video

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COVID-19 Vaccine Priority List

The elderly

People with obesity

People who have two of the following diseases:

- Diabetes
- High blood pressure
- Cardiovascular diseases
- Cancer
- Immunodeficiency diseases
- Chest and respiratory diseases
- Kidney diseases

Workers and professionals most vulnerable to infection with Covid-19 due to their frequent direct contact with infected people.

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Who Should Not Get the Vaccine?

Few people, who are at risk of infection with COVID19- virus, should not get the vaccine, and this includes people who are severely allergic to any of the components of the vaccine.

Information on Allergic Reactions:

Inform the healthcare worker if you have/had a serious allergic reaction **before receiving the vaccination.**

You **should not get the vaccine** if you have/had a serious allergic reaction to medicines, vaccines or food

If you have had a reaction to the vaccine, it usually happens within minutes and rest assured there are trained medical teams onsite that can assist and treat allergic reactions promptly.

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Before getting the vaccine, inform the doctor of:

Details about your medical history and whether you suffer from a chronic disease (e.g. Diabetes, high blood pressure, or asthma) and the level of control and treatment plan that you are receiving at the moment.

If you are feeling any sickness before receiving the vaccine (such as high temperature) or any other symptoms, to determine the possibility of receiving the vaccine while you are in this condition.

If you have had an allergic reaction to any of the vaccines you received previously.

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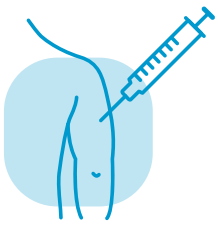
What are the Methods of taking the COVID-19 vaccine?



The vaccine is given by injection into the muscle.

How many doses should be taken?

Two doses which are received three weeks apart.

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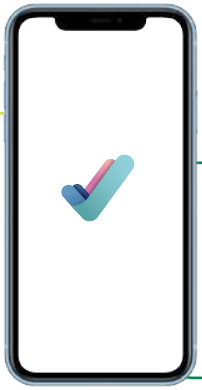
How to register for COVID-19 vaccine?



1

Download **Sehhaty** App and Sign in or create an account.

2

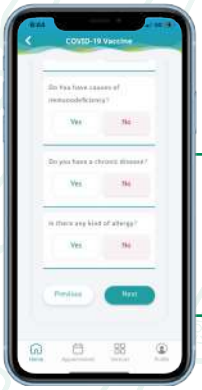
Choose Corona (COVID-19) vaccine to fill in the application form

3

Select the beneficiary whose wishes to get the vaccine

4

Fill in the information required in the application form



5

Click Next to complete the application

Available on the App Store
GET IT ON Google Play

THROUGH SEHHATY APP

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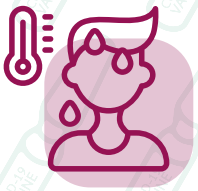
What should I do after taking the COVID-19 vaccine?

You may experience common side effects such as:

Injection site (arm) reaction whether pain or redness.

Feeling tired and having a headache.



High temperature and body tremors.

If you experience any of these symptoms, take a pain reliever such as paracetamol, and if the symptoms worsen, call 937

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Vaccines development throughout history

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To find out more, visit the Coronavirus Prevention website

https://covid19awareness.sa

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