

*Hi there....as you might be aware COVID-19 vaccines are being rolled out in Zimbabwe and the rest of the world. Below are answers to the commonly asked questions.*

*(source – Ministry of Health and Child Care)*

## What is a vaccine and how do vaccines work?

- Vaccines are medical products that are given to people (both children and adults) to protect them against serious and sometimes deadly diseases.
- Vaccines train your immune system to create antibodies, just as it does when it's exposed to a disease. However, because vaccines contain only killed or weakened forms of germs like viruses or bacteria, they do not cause the disease or put you at risk of its complications.
- A COVID-19 vaccine is a vaccine that is intended to provide immunity against COVID-19.

## Are vaccines safe? Are there side effects?

- Yes, they are generally safe.
- A person is far more likely to be seriously harmed by a disease than by a vaccine.

Minor reactions can occur after getting a vaccine e.g. pain or swelling on injection site or a mild fever and irritability in children. More serious ones e.g. shock and persistent fever are possible but these can be managed.

## What types of COVID-19 vaccines are being developed? How would they work?

Different types of vaccines include:

- ✓ Inactivated or weakened virus vaccines, which use a form of the virus that doesn't cause disease, but still prompts an immune response.
- ✓ Protein-based vaccines, with a coronavirus protein or protein fragment to safely prompt an immune response.
- ✓ Viral vector vaccines, which use a virus that has been engineered so it can't cause disease, but produces coronavirus proteins to safely prompt an immune response.

## What would be the benefits of getting a COVID 19 vaccine?

- COVID-19 is easily transmitted and can lead to serious illness and death, even for people who are young and healthy.
- Scientists are studying whether people who get vaccinated for COVID-19 would also be less likely to pass the COVID-19 virus on to other people. If that's the case, getting vaccinated could be a powerful way to not only protect yourself, but also your entire community.

## Are vaccines necessary to prevent the spread of COVID-19?

- YES! Vaccines are an essential public health measure for the prevention and control of COVID-19 locally and globally.

## Should I get vaccinated?

- YES! Vaccines save lives. All eligible persons in Zimbabwe are encouraged (NOT FORCED) to take up COVID-19 vaccination.
- If you have any underlying conditions or worries, get advice from medical professionals.

## COVID Comic...

- Put the COVID-19 vaccine in the nose of relatives and they will poke it everywhere.



## Got COVID-19 related questions?

- ❑ Talk to the CTU IPC designee at your CRS / dept.
- ❑ Email CTU IPC taskforce on: [ipc@uz-ctrc.org](mailto:ipc@uz-ctrc.org)
- ❑ City Council COVID-19 Rapid Response Teams:
  - ❑ Chitungwiza – 0773733504/ 0772784967 / 0712843581 Harare – 0772974314
- ❑ MoHCC tollfree number: 2019 / 2023

## Want to get involved?

Send your comments / suggestions for future broadcasts to [skokera@uz-ctrc.org](mailto:skokera@uz-ctrc.org)

