

# COVID -19 VACCINES

## What you need to know



August 2021



Western Cape  
Government



## Unsure about getting the COVID-19 vaccine

- It is normal to have questions.
- Vaccines have ended pandemics like polio and measles. Babies and children get them to prevent these and other diseases.
- COVID-19 vaccines are safe and are already saving lives in many countries.



## **COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective**

- Of 5 billion people vaccinated only a very small number had a serious side-effect.
- Vaccines protect against severe COVID-19 illness and death. Vaccines are already saving thousands of lives.



## How does the vaccine work?

- The vaccine trains your immune system to recognise the coronavirus.
- If you then get COVID-19, your immune system will spring into action and prevent you from getting severely ill.



## Why do I need the vaccine?

- There is no cure for COVID-19.
- Vaccines will protect you against getting very sick or dying from COVID-19.
- Being vaccinated is our best protection against more 'waves' of COVID-19 and return to a more normal life.
- The more people that are vaccinated, the less chance the virus has to make people sick.



## Will the vaccine give me COVID-19 or make me sick?

- No, the vaccine does not contain the virus and will not give you COVID-19.
- Many people experience mild side effects like headache and fever. These start around 6 hours after vaccination and last 1-2 days.
- These side effects show the immune system is preparing to fight COVID-19.



## How do I get a vaccine?

- We cannot vaccinate everyone at once.
- Those at greatest risk of severe COVID-19 are being vaccinated first.
- To get vaccinated:
  - You can register by sending the word 'REGISTER' to 0600 123 456 on WhatsApp or dial \*134\*832# (free from any SA network) or on the website: <https://vaccine.enroll.health.gov.za>
  - You can also visit a vaccination site near you. Take your ID with you.



## How can I help?

- Help to register people who qualify for vaccination, especially if they do not have a smartphone or cannot access the internet.
- Get your information from trusted sources. For more information please visit <https://coronavirus.westerncape.gov.za/vaccine>





## **Do I need the vaccine if I have had COVID-19?**

- Yes, natural immunity from infection is not as strong or long-lasting as the immunity provided by the COVID-19 vaccine.
- You can have a vaccine 30 days after developing COVID-19.



## How soon after my vaccination am I protected against COVID-19?

- 4 weeks after a one-dose vaccination (Janssen or JnJ).
- 2 weeks after the 2nd dose of a two-dose vaccination schedule (Pfizer).

**Vaccines do  
not provide full  
(100%) protection.**  
Continue COVID-19  
precautions:



**Wear your  
mask**



**Keep a safe  
physical distance  
from others**



**Wash your  
hands**



**Avoid crowds  
and confined  
places.**

Let's work together to  
**end severe COVID.**

Get vaccinated as soon  
as you are able to.



**Help others to  
get vaccinated.**



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For support to register  
call **0860 142 142**

or visit

**[www.westerncape.gov.za](http://www.westerncape.gov.za)**



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