



VACCINE SAFETY TALKING POINTS

Vaccines undergo intense safety testing.

- COVID-19 vaccines go through in-depth testing that involve tens of thousands of people.
- Once tests show a COVID-19 vaccine is safe only then does the WHO consider the vaccine.
- The WHO further gets a panel of experts to double check the test results to ensure vaccine safety.
- The South African Health Products Authority also tests all vaccines used in the country to ensure they are safe.

Vaccines are safe!

- Millions of people have received COVID-19 vaccines without experiencing any major side-effects.
- Serious side effects from the vaccine are extremely rare. Severe allergic reaction occurred in only 2 to 5 people per million.
- The risk of serious illness from catching COVID-19 is much higher than experiencing any side-effects from the vaccine.
- COVID-19 puts you at risk for serious illness, which may result in death whereas getting a vaccine helps your body recognise the virus and teaches your body how to fight it.
- Vaccination has been found to be our most effective weapon in the fight against COVID-19.
- It is common to experience some mild-to-moderate side effects when receiving vaccinations. This is because your immune system is instructing your body to react in certain ways.

No one in our country has died as a direct result of receiving a COVID-19 vaccine.

- Investigations by the National Immunisation Safety Expert Committee and SAHPRA found that no one has died in South Africa from receiving a COVID-19 vaccine.
- COVID-19 related deaths showed that people died either as a result of contracting the virus before vaccination or contracting the virus shortly after inoculation.

- People with a history of other allergies are observed for 30-minutes after vaccination so they can be monitored and treated immediately if they have a reaction.
- To report any adverse events following vaccination: Contact your local health facility, download the MedSafety App or call the COVID-19 Hotline on 0800 029 999.