



# Question & answer about Covid-19 vaccines ??





## Question & answer about Covid-19 vaccines??

### 1 How important is it to take the vaccine against Covid-19 virus?



Vaccines are one of the most effective and safe means of preventing diseases. Vaccines stimulate the body's immune system to produce antibodies, this kind of immunity known as (acquired immunity) and this method of obtaining immunity against the disease is more effective and safer than obtaining immunity by stimulating the immune system through getting the infection in what is known as (natural immunity). The importance of taking a vaccine against Covid-19 is that it will reduce the disease burden among people in communities, reduce the number of people admitted in intensive care and reduce mortality, thereby reduce the pressure on the health care sector. In addition, it will gradually leads to reduce the current measures such as physical distancing, closure of activities, travel restrictions and other preventive measures, in preparation for the return of life to normal and recovery from the effects of the pandemic in various aspects of life.



## Question & answer about Covid-19 vaccines ? ?



### 2 How is the vaccine given? How many doses of the vaccine? What is the interval between doses ?

The vaccines used are given through an intramuscular injection. They are given as two doses that are separated by a specified period of time.

(Please comply with the instructions of the vaccination center when taking the vaccine and follow up updates)



## Question & answer about Covid-19 vaccines??

### 3 When does the vaccine take effect ?



The effect of the vaccine begins after taking the first dose. However, the full effect of the vaccine is not reached until 14 days after the date of the second dose. The person before the end of this period is still susceptible to infection and should go to the health institution for examination in case of any symptoms of the disease.



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### 4 What are the side effects of vaccines?

No serious side effects have been recorded since the national campaign for immunization against Covid-19 began in Oman.

The recorded side effects of vaccines were limited to pain at the injection site or redness or swelling, fever, headache, nausea, joint pain and general fatigue.

The presence of these symptoms is evidence that the body's immune system has begun to respond to a vaccine.

(These symptoms may vary depending on the vaccine used and the reactions of different bodies to them, but these symptoms often go away within three days after taking the doses of the vaccine, please see the vaccine center's guidelines while taking the vaccine)



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### 5 How can vaccine side effects be mitigated?



By applying cold compresses to the injection site to relieve pain, redness and swelling at the injection site if any, and using antipyretic medications such as paracetamol (adol) to relieve the fever, headache and joint pain. If these symptoms persist or if you experience serious side effects, report to the nearest health institution.



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### 6 What guidelines should I follow with regard to the vaccine ?



- Initiate a quick response and go to the health institution as soon as you are notified that you are in the target group for vaccination.
- Commitment to take the second dose of the vaccine in the specified period after the first dose is taken, in order to obtain the desired effectiveness, as one dose of the vaccine is insufficient.
- Note that the effect of the vaccine begins 14 days after taking the second dose to obtain the desired effectiveness, and before this period the person is still susceptible to infection and should go to the health institution for examination in case he/she get any symptoms of the disease.
- After taking the doses of the vaccine, the person stays in the health institution 15 minutes to observe and to ensure that there is no serious side effect that required direct medical intervention such as anaphylaxis reaction.
- Continue to adhere to other preventive measures such as hand washing, wearing mask and physical distancing after taking vaccine doses, as taking the vaccine does not eliminate adherence to these procedures.
- Do not turn to rumors and take information about the vaccine from reliable official sources.



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### 7 How is the vaccine target group selected ?

**The target group is selected based on several factors, including:**

- Continuous assessment of the global and local epidemiological situation in the presence of new variants and rapidly spreading strains.
- The result of the National Serosurvey study
- The result of the Population analysis study conducted in Oman to identify factors affecting the risk and mortality of Covid19-disease.
- Recommendations from the European Medicines Agency and the World Health Organization.
- Limited manufacturing and supply resources in the required quantities within a specified period.





## Question & answer about Covid-19 vaccines??

### 8 What are the categories excluded from taking vaccines at this stage ?

- Those who has a known allergy to a vaccine component or who developed allergy after taking the first dose of the vaccine.
- Anyone with a known history of allergy to any vaccine or injectable drug with the same ingredients as the Covid-19 vaccine





## Question & answer about Covid-19 vaccines??

### 9 Does having a history of allergies considered a contraindication to take the vaccine ?

Excluded from the administration of the vaccine is anyone who has a known allergy to one of the components of the vaccine or who developed allergy after taking the first dose, and who has a known history of allergy to any vaccine or injectable medicine with the same ingredients as the Covid-19 vaccine.

Other allergies are not contraindications to vaccine administration such as food, pet, insect bites, plant or chemical allergies.





## Question & answer about Covid-19 vaccines??

**10** Is taking antibiotics considered a contraindication to take the vaccine ?

**No.** However one should be careful about the reason for which antibiotic has been prescribed not to be for acute inflammation or febrile illness.





## Question & answer about Covid-19 vaccines??

### 11 What happens if a person get Covid-19 infection after taking two doses of the vaccine ?



It is not recommended to give this person an additional dose of the vaccine, and he/ she should be treated in accordance with the guide to treat patient with Covid-19.



## Question & answer about Covid-19 vaccines??

### 12 Could Covid-19 vaccine recipients donate blood?



**Yes.** A person who has received Covid-19 vaccine can donate blood without any intervals between taking vaccine doses and donating blood.



## Question & answer about Covid-19 vaccines??

### 13 Do vaccines cause infertility ?



**At current time, there is no scientific evidence to suggest that vaccines cause infertility.**



## Question & answer about Covid-19 vaccines??

### 14 Could the vaccine be given to women planning to become pregnant?



**Yes**, if they are among the target groups and have no other contraindications to vaccination. There is no need to leave any time between taking the vaccine and getting pregnant.



## Question & answer about Covid-19 vaccines??

### 15 Could the vaccine be given to lactating women ?

**Yes**, if they are among the target groups and have no other contraindications to vaccination. It is not recommended to stop breastfeeding when taking the vaccine.







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**16** Could the vaccine be given to people with HIV and patients taking immunosuppressive drugs?



**Yes**, if they are among the target groups and have no other contraindications to vaccination, keep in mind that the immune response level among members of this group may be lower than in other groups.

(Please consult the treating doctor).



## Question & answer about Covid-19 vaccines??

**17** Could the vaccine be given to people with autoimmune diseases ?

**Yes**, if they are among the target groups and have no other contraindications to vaccination, the doctor who follows their cases should be consulted before they are given the vaccine.





## Question & answer about Covid-19 vaccines??

**18** Could the vaccine be given to people with epilepsy ?



**Yes**, if they are among the target groups and have no other contraindications to vaccination, the doctor who follows their cases should be consulted on the patient's regularity on treatment and the stability of his/her disease.



## Question & answer about Covid-19 vaccines??

**19** What are the recommendations for people with multiple chronic diseases who are regularly monitored and being followed up in hospitals?



They can be given the vaccine either in the institution where they are being followed or the person is provided with a report listing his/her comorbidities, complications and medications so that the vaccine can be given to him/her in the vaccine centers if there is no other contraindications to get the vaccine.



## Question & answer about Covid-19 vaccines??

**20** Is the vaccine safe for patients with platelet disorders or those receiving blood thinners (anticoagulants)?

**Yes.** Treating doctor should be consulted for patients with platelet disorders and recipients of blood thinners to determine whether they can be given a vaccine that will be in the form of intramuscular injections, and specify timing getting the vaccine so that it does not cause bleeding or hematoma at the injection site.





## Question & answer about Covid-19 vaccines??

**21** What is the right time to give the vaccine to people who are undergoing renal dialysis ?



The vaccine should be administered to this group before or after the dialysis and to avoid giving the vaccine during dialysis session. It is preferable to give the vaccine during the day when the patient does not have dialysis.



## Question & answer about Covid-19 vaccines??

**22** Is it possible to give the vaccine to people who are admitted in the health institutions ?

**Yes**, if they are among the target group and have no other contraindications for vaccination. This excludes people who are admitted due to infections and those with diseases that cause fever until they recovered.





## Question & answer about Covid-19 vaccines??

### 23 Do other vaccines help protect me from Covid-19?



- There is currently no evidence to suggest that any of those vaccines in use for other diseases provide protection against Covid-19.
- It should be noted here that the seasonal influenza vaccine is ineffective against COVID-19 virus because the virus belongs to a different viral family not covered by the seasonal influenza vaccine.





## Question & answer about Covid-19 vaccines??

### 24 Could other vaccines be given before or after doses of Covid-19 vaccines?



**Yes.** The other vaccine should be given at least 2 weeks before or after the dose of the Covid-19 vaccine.

(Example: The seasonal flu vaccine dose may be administered at least 2 weeks before or 2 weeks after any doses of Covid-19 vaccine)



## Question & answer about Covid-19 vaccines??

### 25 Will Covid-19 vaccines provide long-term protection ?



- It is too early to tell whether Covid-19 vaccines will provide long-term protection, or how long the vaccine will last to protect the body, and further research is needed to answer this question.
- But it is known so far that the vaccine prevent the disease symptoms and reduces complications.



## Question & answer about Covid-19 vaccines??

### 26 Will vaccines replace the preventive measures ?



**No.** Vaccines will be complementary to other preventive measures as vaccines will not target all populations at once and there will always be at risk group around us who are not vaccinated thus not prevented unless they comply with preventive measures.

In addition information is not yet available as to how long the vaccine will be protective to vaccinated people and when this protection will disappear.

Therefore, the person still has to wear the mask, apply physical distance and obligate to isolation when indicated (follow up updates in this regard)



## Question & answer about Covid-19 vaccines??

### 27 Will the vaccine be mandatory ?



**No.** There is no legal formula for making the vaccine compulsory. Taking the vaccine will be based on the conviction of individuals in the community about the importance of taking the vaccine which will be supported by awareness to promote the sense of responsibility and national duty.



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### 28 Will the vaccine be a travel requirement ?



**Making the vaccine as a travel requirement will depend on each country's national policies and on the availability of the vaccine in the quantities that allow it to be used as an additional requirement or as an alternative to the PCR testing and isolation.**

**(Please follow local updates as well as updates from the destination country in this regard)**



## Question & answer about Covid-19 vaccines??

**29** Could the vaccine be administered in Oman to those who have received the first dose of the vaccine in another country and cannot take the second dose of the vaccine in the same country?



**Yes.** If a person received the first dose of a vaccine registered in Oman in another country, the second dose of the same vaccine can be given in Oman, provided availability of the first dose details in regards to administered date and the type of vaccine used.

If a person received the first dose of a vaccine not registered in Oman in another country, he/she should wait for 3 months after receiving that first dose. After that period, he/she will be given two doses of any vaccine registered in Oman if he or she is among the target group and have no other contraindications for vaccination.



## Question & answer about Covid-19 vaccines??

### 30 Where to get more information about the Covid-19 vaccine ?

If there is any enquiry about the Covid-19 vaccine, please contact the Ministry through the Call Centre (24441999).





## Question & answer about Covid-19 vaccines??

**31** Somebody took the first dose of the vaccine then he got the infection, can he take the second dose and when ?

**Yes** he can take the second dose of the vaccine according to the appointment or after at least Six weeks of recovering from the disease.

