



SAFETY OF COVID-19 VACCINES DID YOU KNOW?

How do I know the vaccine is SAFE?

- The vaccines have gone through **strict testing including large trials** that involve tens of thousands of people, to guarantee its safety.
- The vaccines have been **licensed by the European Medicines Agency** before they were introduced in the European Union.

WHY should I take the vaccine?

- To **protect you against serious disease** caused by COVID-19 infection and reduce serious disease and mortality.
- To **help our economy and social life** to start moving toward normality.
- It is the most **effective way of preventing COVID-19**.
- To prevent infection that can lead to long-term negative health effects.

How Much Does a Vaccine REDUCE THE RISK of COVID-19 and its complications?

- The World Health Organization (WHO) had originally expected that a COVID-19 vaccine would prevent disease or decrease its severity in at least 50% of people who are vaccinated. However, clinical trials have shown that **some vaccines can prevent serious disease and complications from COVID-19 in 90 - 95% of cases**.

What are the SIDE-EFFECTS of the vaccine?

- Trials involving tens of thousands of people have shown that the **side effects are short-term and resolve without complication or injury, very similar to most vaccines**.
- The most common side-effects are some **pain and redness at the site of the injection, headache, chills, tiredness, muscle pain or fever lasting for a day or two**. These side effects show that your immune system is responding to the vaccine. You can take medications such as paracetamol to help control these symptoms if you experience them.
- Allergic reactions after receiving the vaccine were **rare**. Persons who receive the vaccine will be **monitored for around 15 minutes after being vaccinated** in case of a rare serious allergic reaction. Vaccination centres are equipped to treat such reactions.

UNHCR Malta is not the official source of this information. UNHCR Malta has translated this information to make it available to you in a language you understand, and to share it among refugees and asylum seekers in Malta.

For more translated information on the COVID-19 Vaccine please visit <https://www.unhcr.org/mt/news/covid-19-information-for-malta>.

Source: Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Directorate, Malta

For more information, please visit <https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/health-promotion/covid-19/Pages/vaccines.aspx>. This website is regularly updated as needed.