



## ADMINISTRATION OF COVID-19 VACCINES DID YOU KNOW?

### **WHAT does getting the vaccine involve? How many doses will I need?**

The vaccine is given as an injection in the muscle of the arm or thigh. For the vaccine to work effectively and provide protection against the virus, **two doses will need to be given to each person at least 21 days apart**. This will help the body produce a full immune response and fight the infection in case there is contact with the COVID-19 virus.

Enough doses of the vaccine will be set aside to make sure that the second dose given to a person is of the same company as the first dose received.

### **Can people who suffer from ALLERGIES take the COVID-19 vaccine?**

It depends on the type of allergy. Any person who has had a severe allergic reaction to any ingredients of the COVID-19 vaccine should not receive the vaccine. This vaccine contains polyethylene glycol (PEG), a known allergen commonly found in medicines and also in household goods and cosmetics. Known allergy to PEG is extremely rare but those who suffer from this allergy should NOT receive this vaccine.

- The vaccine is egg-free so may be used by those with an egg allergy.
- There are no animal products or preservatives in the vaccine.
- The vaccine is administered from vial with a synthetic rubber (bromobutyl) stopper that does not contain latex so is safe in those with latex allergies.

For more information on the ingredients of the COVID-19 vaccine, please visit:

<https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/health-promotion/covid-19/Pages/landing-page.aspx>

Persons who have had a severe allergic reaction to any other vaccine or injectable therapy should speak to their doctor to assess the risks. However, a history of a mild allergic reaction to a vaccine or injectable therapy should not stop one from receiving the COVID-19 vaccine.

Persons who do have allergic reactions that are not related to vaccines are not excluded from taking the COVID-19 vaccine.

When receiving the vaccine, you will be monitored for 15 minutes afterwards in case of a rare serious allergic reaction. All vaccination centres are equipped to treat such reactions.

If you have queries regarding whether you should take the vaccine in view of your medical condition, you should discuss with your GP, call the COVID-19 vaccine helpline on 145 or send an email to [covid-vaccine@gov.mt](mailto:covid-vaccine@gov.mt)

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.