



## WHO SHOULD AND SHOULD NOT TAKE THE VACCINE DID YOU KNOW?

### *Are there any groups of people who **SHOULD NOT** take the COVID-19 vaccine?*

- **Children aged under 16 years:**

The vaccine will not be licensed for use in children under 16 years of age because safety trials on this group have not been carried out. Children suffering from medical conditions that put them at greater risk of COVID-19 complications will be considered after initial roll-out of the vaccine when more evidence is available.

- **Pregnant and breastfeeding women:**

As is usual in initial trials for vaccinations, the COVID-19 vaccine has not been specifically tested in pregnant and breast feeding women. There is currently not enough evidence to recommend that all pregnant women routinely receive this vaccine since studies to investigate effects of the vaccine on pregnancy in animals are still underway.

That being said, the potential benefits of vaccination may be especially important for certain pregnant women who have a high risk of severe complications from COVID-19 or those who have a high risk of catching COVID-19.

**These women are advised to discuss with their doctor and may decide to receive the vaccine.**

**Pregnant women who are not at high risk of catching COVID-19/experiencing serious complications from COVID-19 are advised to postpone vaccination until their pregnancy is over.**

Regarding **breast-feeding**, there are no safety data available regarding the vaccine during breastfeeding or in breastfed infants. In spite of this, the vaccine is not thought to be a risk to the breast-feeding infant. Women who are breast-feeding may decide to receive the vaccine, or may choose to postpone vaccination until they have finished breastfeeding their child.

### *Are there any situations where I should **POSTPONE** taking the vaccine?*

- If you are **very unwell**, you should postpone receiving the vaccine till you have recovered. Make sure to inform the COVID-19 vaccine helpline on 145 if you cannot attend your vaccination appointment. This is so that you will be given another appointment and your slot will not be wasted.
- If you are only mildly unwell and are not suffering from fever or other symptoms such as chills, nausea, vomiting or diarrhoea, you do not need to postpone receiving the vaccine.
- If you are experiencing any symptoms that are associated with COVID-19 (fever, cough, shortness of breath, tiredness, sore throat, runny / blocked nose, headache, muscle pain, loss of smell, loss of taste, diarrhoea or vomiting) you are advised to call 111 to arrange a swab test and get further advice. Please do not attend for vaccination if you have potential COVID-19 symptoms or if your swab test result is still pending.
- If you are **positive for COVID-19**, you should postpone receiving the vaccine until you have recovered and at least 4 weeks from when your symptoms started.

### **The following are advised to speak to their doctor before taking the COVID-19 vaccine:**

- If you are taking a blood-thinning medication
- If you suffer from a bleeding disorder or low functioning platelets

- Persons with HIV and persons taking medications that suppress the immune system are encouraged to take the vaccine but should speak to their specialists to guide them on the right time when to receive the vaccine.

***Should people who tested positive for Covid-19 in the past receive the vaccine?***

There isn't exact information on how long the immunity from natural infection lasts. **Therefore, all those who have recovered from COVID-19 infection are advised to take the vaccine.**

*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.*