

# COVID-19 VACCINE INFORMATION BOOKLET



# What is a vaccine?

A vaccine is a medicine developed to produce an immune response in the recipient. This immune response helps the body recognise and destroy a virus or bacteria soon after it enters the body and before it makes the individual sick, and before it can spread to other people.

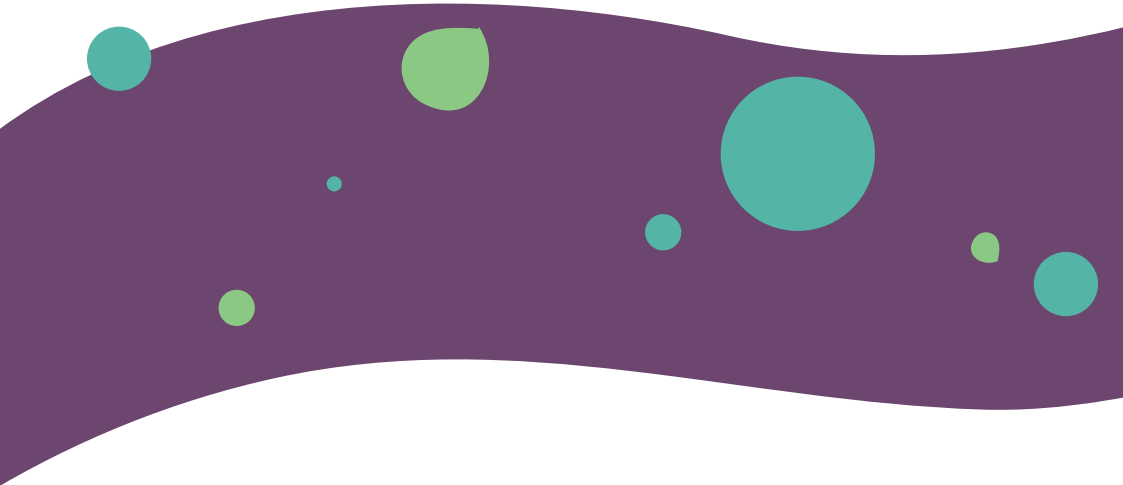
Vaccines have been developed and used to successfully prevent a number of illnesses including polio, small pox, measles, mumps, rubella and tetanus.



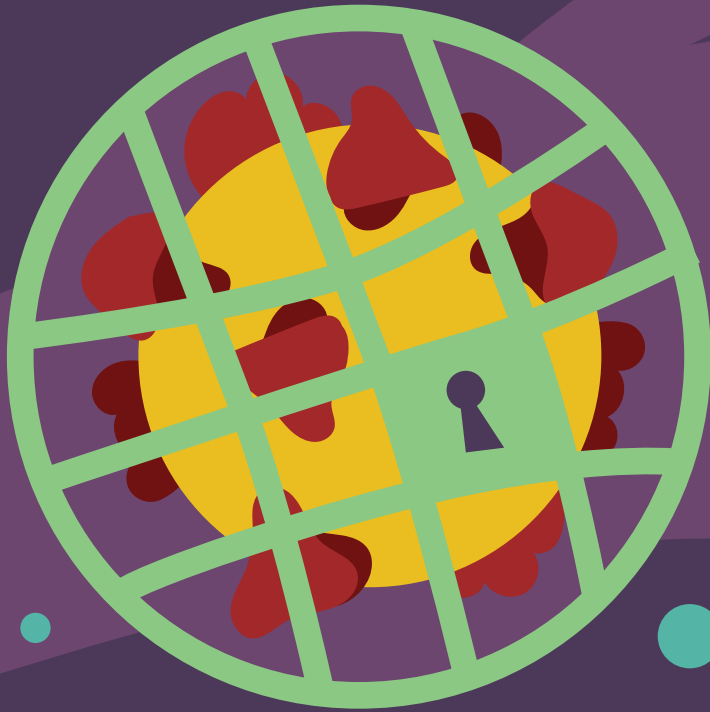
**Over the past 12 months, scientists from around the world have worked together to develop a vaccine to prevent the spread of COVID-19.**



# How does the COVID-19 vaccine work?



**Like other vaccines the COVID-19 vaccine helps the bodies immune system to recognise the COVID-19 virus and produce a special protein that stops the virus from replicating.**



**If the virus is unable to replicate it cannot make the infected person sick and also reduces the risk of transmission to other people.**

# Who should get vaccinated?

A stylized illustration of a landscape. It features a green hill with a brown house on the right side. There are green bushes on the left and right sides of the hill. The background is a solid purple color.

**For vaccines to be effective it is important for everyone to be vaccinated.**

**However, it is not possible to vaccinate everyone at once. So to start, people most-at-risk to infection will be vaccinated first – this includes health care workers and frontline workers, like police.**



**After them, people who are at risk of severe illness as a result of COVID-19 infection will be vaccinated - this includes the elderly and people with other illnesses. And finally everyone else.**

# Myths & Stories

**Like most things when they are new, people will tell a range of stories and tales.**

**And there are a lot of stories about the COVID-19 vaccine.**

**The truth is over 800,000,000 doses have already been given to people worldwide and as a result COVID-19 infections are declining and less people are dying.**



**X**

**You can get  
HIV from  
mosquitos**

**X**

**Cell phones  
cause cancer**

**X**

**Drinking  
coffee makes  
you sterile**



# Why should I get vaccinated?

**Vaccines work most effectively when most of the population are vaccinated. When this happens the virus cannot spread.**

**It is important that everyone is vaccinated because for a small number of people the vaccine won't work, or for medical reasons they cannot be vaccinated. However if everyone else is vaccinated they will also be protected.**

# When will I get vaccinated?

The PNG NDoH are working closely with the PHA to roll out the COVID-19 vaccines.

You will be informed when the vaccines become available, and when and where you need to go to be vaccinated.



# What are the different types of vaccines?

In order to produce enough vaccines for everyone in the world, a number of different pharmaceutical companies are making the vaccines. Each company is calling the vaccine a different name: AstraZeneca, Pfizer, Novavax, Moderna.

It makes no difference which vaccine you receive.

The vaccine is

**FREE**



**While you are waiting to be vaccinated it is important that you:**



**Stay home and isolate if you are unwell**



**Wear a mask in public spaces**



**Wash your  
hands**



**Keep a safe  
distance from  
others**

# For more information you can contact:

## COVID-19 Hotline

1800200 or 71441385

## PNG online COVID-19 portal

[www.COVID19.info.gov.pg](http://www.COVID19.info.gov.pg)

## PNG NDoH Facebook page

[www.facebook.com/PNGNDOH/](http://www.facebook.com/PNGNDOH/)

