

What else do I need to know about COVID-19 vaccines?



- COVID-19 vaccines are effective in preventing severe illness and death.
- Getting vaccinated protects you, your friends, your workmates, your family and the nation at large.
- COVID-19 vaccines remain effective across different variants of the virus and people should continue to get vaccinated even when new variants come
- Vaccines provide protection against long COVID which has been linked with the ongoing omicron variant outbreak
- Parents and caregivers should encourage and allow children from 12 years upwards to get vaccinated against Covid-19



- Youths like any other population group are at risk of contracting and spreading COVID-19 among their networks and at home and hence should be vaccinated.
- Covid-19 vaccines protect children in the same way that routine childhood vaccines do
- Communities should continue to take actions to slow down and eventually stop the spread of the virus, even after being vaccinated
- Pregnant and breast-feeding women are at significantly higher risk of contracting COVID-19 can be vaccinated after getting adequate information from health care workers about the vaccines in use and available research data.
- Living with HIV is not a contraindication for vaccination. As with other chronic conditions people living with HIV (PLHIV) should be vaccinated and protected from severe COVID-19.
- It is not true that people who receive COVID-19 vaccines will die after 2 years. There is no scientific basis for that rumour and it should not affect your decision to get vaccinated. Similarly concerns about losing fertility after vaccination are unfounded and not backed by research evidence.
- If for any reason you are worried about your condition after vaccination visit your nearest health centre or vaccination post for advice.
- Remember, it's not vaccines that will stop the pandemic, its vaccination!
- Getting vaccinated is safer than getting infected with SARS Cov-2 infection

For more information about COVID-19 vaccines and vaccination or the ongoing campaign contact us on

**toll free hotlines 2019 and 393
or talk to your community health worker**



Information on COVID-19 Vaccination In Zimbabwe

The COVID-19 vaccination which was introduced in March 2021 is still continuing until all eligible people are vaccinated and protected. The service remains available at all health facilities when there are no mass vaccination campaigns. From time to time the Ministry of Health and Child Care conducts mass vaccination campaigns in different communities.



Who can be vaccinated against COVID-19?

All adults and children starting from 12 years of age and above

- Note that the elderly (60 and above years) and those with pre-existing chronic conditions like hypertension, diabetes mellitus, asthma and other heart and lung conditions are at high risk of serious COVID-19 disease and **are a prioritized group for vaccination**

Why does the Ministry of Health and Child Care continue to conduct COVID-19 vaccination campaigns?

- COVID-19 is still there and remains a threat to public health as long as cases are still being recorded in the country and beyond. A decrease in number of cases does not mean the end of COVID-19. Serious waves of the disease are still a possibility. Vaccination therefore remains important.
- Some children aged 12 to 15 years known to be at high risk of contracting and spreading COVID-19 are still to be vaccinated
- New age bands in children become eligible for vaccination from time to time and should be protected

- Vaccination of children helps control outbreaks in schools which have become common. This indirectly protects the elderly people they interact with daily in schools and at home
- There is need to reach out and vaccinate the remainder of the unvaccinated adult population and those who are still to get second or third doses
- The country has secured sufficient vaccine doses and plans to avert future waves by intensifying vaccination

Where to access COVID-19 vaccination services

During vaccination campaigns, vaccination will be available at:

- All Hospitals (public and private)
- All government, council and mission clinics
- Approved Private Medical practitioners' rooms
- All primary and secondary schools
- Tertiary schools
- Workplaces
- Other selected places near you such as churches, markets, streets, and others

Outside campaigns COVID-19 vaccination services continue to be available at health centres



What you can do to assist your community



- Get vaccinated if you are eligible and protect yourself and others from COVID-19
- **Parents and caregivers of children** encourage and ensure that children from 12 years and above are vaccinated either at school or other vaccination point
- **Community leaders**-be role models in your community, get vaccinated and ensure that all people in your area are vaccinated
- **Leaders of different religions**-get vaccinated and encourage and ensure that your followers are vaccinated and protected
- **Law enforcers**-get vaccinated and enforce laws prohibiting unvaccinated people to access designated public places or institutions
- **Business community/employers**- facilitate vaccination of all staff in collaboration with local vaccination teams or allow employees time to visit vaccination points. Provide incentives for vaccination to staff or clients. Collaborate with MOHCC in the provision of vaccination services.
- **Community members** - Help in spreading correct messages about vaccination. Avoid forwarding unverified rumours about vaccines or vaccination. Assist the elderly and others with special needs to access vaccination services during the campaign.