JCSA COVID-19 VACCINE - FAQ

1. WHAT IS VACCINATION?

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), **vaccination** provides a simple, safe, and effective way of protecting you against harmful diseases before you come into contact with them. It uses your body's natural defences to build resistance to specific infections and makes your immune system stronger.

Vaccines train your immune system to create antibodies, just as it does when it's exposed to a disease. However, because vaccines contain only killed or weakened forms of germs like viruses or bacteria, they do not cause the disease or put you at risk of its complications.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uWGTciX795o

2. HOW LONG DOES PROTECTION FROM COVID-19 LAST?

We are not certain how long protection from the vaccine lasts. However, we are aware that COVID-19 has caused very serious illness and death for a lot of people. If you get COVID-19, you also risk giving it to loved ones who may get very sick. It is advised that people with moderately to severely compromised immune systems should receive an additional dose of mRNA COVID-19 vaccine after the initial 2 doses.

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/faq.html

3. DOES THE VACCINE MAKE YOU IMMUNE?

No, the Vaccine does not make one immune. However, it will prevent against severe illness, hospitalization and death.

4. HOW MANY DOSES OF THE VACCINE WILL I NEED TO TAKE?

The number of doses needed depends on which vaccine you get:
- Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine - 2 doses (21 days a part)
- Astra Zeneca - 2 doses (8 to 12 weeks a part)
- Moderna vaccine - 2 doses (28 days) a part.

- Johnson & Johnsons Jansen (J&J/Janssen) COVID-19 vaccine - requires only one dose.

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/faq.html

5. HOW LONG DOES THE VACCINE TAKE TO WORK?

It usually takes a few weeks for an individual's immune system to build immune defences (anti-COVID-19 cells and antibodies) after getting a COVID-19 vaccine. If the vaccine requires two doses, then full benefits Pain

will not be seen until after the second dose. As noted above, no one is considered completely "immune," even after being fully vaccinated against COVID-19 (both doses, as applicable). It is still possible to contract COVID-19 after vaccination. However, it will be much less problematic.

https://cupe.ca/sites/cupe/files/faq_vaccines_covid19_en_0.pdf

6. DOES HAVING SIDE EFFECTS MEAN THAT THE VACCINE IS WORKING?

The vaccine stimulates your immune system to protect you from the virus. This process can sometimes cause side effects like fever, chills or headache, but not everyone experiences this. The presence or magnitude of the reaction you may have vaccination does not predict or reflect your immune response to the vaccine. You do not have to have side effects in order to be protected.

https://www.who.int/news-room/q-a-detail/coronavirus-disease-(covid-19)-vaccines

7. WHAT ARE THE SIDE EFFECTS?

COVID-19 vaccines can cause mild, short term side effects, such as:

- A low-grade fever
- Redness at the injection site.

Most reactions to vaccines are mild and go away within a few days on their own. More serious or long-lasting side effects to vaccines are possible but extremely rare. Vaccines are continually monitored for as long as they are in use, to detect rare adverse events and implement approaches to limit their occurrence.

Reported side effects to COVID-19 vaccines have mostly been mild to moderate and short-lasting. They include:

- Fever
- Fatigue
- Headache,
- Muscle Pain
- Chills
- Diarrhoea
- and pain at the injection site

The chances of any of these side effects following vaccination differ according to the specific COVID-19 vaccine. These can be managed with:

- Rest

- Non-alcoholic liquids
- Paracetamol/acetaminophen

Contact your care provider if the tenderness (pain) where you got the injection increases after 24 hours, or the side effects do not go away within a couple days. If you have difficulty breathing, chest pain, confusion, loss of speech or mobility, call a healthcare provider immediately.

https://www.who.int/news-room/q-a-detail/coronavirus-disease-(covid-19)-vaccines-safety

8. HOW DO WE KNOW THAT THE COVID-19 VACCINE IS SAFE?

There are strict protections in place to help ensure the safety of all Covid-19 vaccines. Before receiving validation from WHO and national regulatory agencies, Covid-19 vaccines must undergo rigorous testing in clinical trials to prove that they meet internationally agreed benchmarks for safety and efficacy.

Unprecedented scientific collaborations have allowed Covid-19 vaccine research, development, and authorizations to be completed in record time – to meet the urgent need for these vaccines while maintaining high safety standards. As with all vaccines, who and regulatory authorities will continuously monitor the use of Covid-19 vaccines to identify and respond to any safety issues that might arise, and through that process to assure they remain safe for use around the world.
https://www.who.int/news-room/q-a-detail/coronavirus-disease-(covid-19)-vaccines-safety

9. DOES THE JCSA SUPPORT MANDATORY VACCINATION

No, the JCSA does not support mandatory vaccinations. We strongly encourage persons to take the vaccine to lower their chances of serious illness, hospitalization and death, however, we believe that persons should have freedom of choice.

10. DOES THE VACCINE PROTECT AGAINST COVID VARIANTS?

According to the CDC, The FDA-authorized COVID-19 vaccines help protect against the Delta and other known variants. These vaccines are effective at keeping people who get COVID-19 from getting very sick and dying. However, persons should still strictly adhere to protocols such as handwashing, wearing of masks and social distancing.

Sources

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/effectiveness/work.html

https://cupe.ca/sites/cupe/files/faq_vaccines_covid19_en_0.pdf

https://www.who.int/