



COVID-19 VACCINE ROLLOUT Public Q&A

Part 1: About the vaccine safety, effectiveness, and the role of BoMRA

WHAT IS THE ROLE OF BOMRA IN THE VACCINE ROLLOUT PROGRAM?

BoMRA regulates all medical products used in Botswana to ensure their quality, safety and efficacy. The authority is responsible for the regulatory approval and safety monitoring of the COVID-19 vaccines. The safety of vaccines is of high priority.

WHY ARE THE VACCINES IMPORTANT?

The vaccines will reduce your chances of contracting COVID-19 and help your body to build up protection.

ARE THERE ANY KNOWN SIDE EFFECTS?

Common side effects reported from use of the vaccines are: pain at injection site, tiredness, headache, muscle pain, chills, joint pain and fever.

Large number of population have received COVID-19 vaccines globally. There are few adverse events following vaccination reported. The risk-benefit assessment of the vaccines indicates that the benefits outweigh the risks by far.

WHERE DO I REPORT SIDE EFFECTS AND HOW?

The public is encouraged to report any side effects from the vaccines to BoMRA, healthcare practitioners or the nearest ADR monitoring center. Further more, Reports can be lodged through the phone **373 1727/ 20**, ADR reporting mobile phone based App: **Med Safety App**, or by sending an email to: reportadr@bomra.co.bw. For more information, you may contact the BoMRA PV unit: **373 1727/ 20** or visit www.bomra.co.bw

IS THE VACCINE SAFE FOR CHILDBEARING AGE GROUPS, PREGNANT, OR BREASTFEEDING MOTHERS?

Most of the vaccines have not been studied on pregnant women. Therefore pregnant women should disclose their pregnancy status to the healthcare providers so that they are assisted accordingly. Those that suspect they may be pregnant should do a pregnancy test to confirm their status.

IS THE VIRUS CONTAGIOUS AFTER VACCINATION?

Experts say vaccination can minimize the spread of the virus and chances of developing severe COVID-19.

IS IT NECESSARY TO CONTINUE OBSERVING MEASURES SUCH AS SOCIAL DISTANCING, WEARING A MASK AFTER VACCINATION?

Yes. Health experts strongly recommend preventive measures such as social distancing, hand washing with soap and water/ sanitising, wearing masks should be followed even after vaccination.