



# COVID-19 VACCINE | FAQs FOR BARBADIANS



These FAQs are intended for Barbadians who have questions about vaccines generally, and the vaccine for COVID-19, in particular. The vaccination of the national population is a significant part of the strategy of the Government of Barbados in its effort to “Beat Back COVID.”

# 1 What is vaccination?

Vaccination is a simple, safe, and effective way of protecting people against harmful diseases. It uses your body's natural defences to build resistance to specific infections by making your immune system stronger.

# 2 How are vaccines developed?

All vaccines go through different study phases before they can be approved for use in the population. The study phases aim to ensure that the vaccines are safe and can protect against the intended disease.

# 3 Which vaccine are we using in Barbados?

In Barbados we will be using the Covishield vaccine by Oxford-AstraZeneca (OAZ), which has a high degree of efficacy in preventing severe COVID-19 and is well suited to seniors.

# 4 Why should I get vaccinated?

During the COVID-19 pandemic, vaccination continues to be critically important in reducing the number of persons who become severely ill.

In addition, when we get vaccinated, we aren't just protecting ourselves, but also our loved ones and those around us.

Some people, like those who are seriously ill, are advised not to get certain vaccines – so they depend on the rest of us to get vaccinated and help reduce the spread of disease.

The strongest reason for being vaccinated, however, is the fact that taking the vaccine could save your life should you become infected with COVID-19.



One of our dedicated front-line police officers being vaccinated for COVID-19

## **5** Are COVID-19 vaccines safe for persons with other illnesses (e.g: cancer; heart disease; HIV; hypertension; diabetes; asthma)?

Yes. This type of vaccine is safe for persons with other illnesses. However for persons who are immune compromised, the full effectiveness of the vaccine may not be obtained.

## **6** Is the COVID-19 vaccine suitable for Black populations?

Yes. The crucial phase 3 clinical trials for the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine were conducted in the U.K., South Africa and Brazil. Black people were represented significantly in the trials ensuring that their response to the vaccine showed it was just as effective and safe as in other racial groups.

## **7** Can you still pass on the virus to others if vaccinated?

Recent studies have suggested that the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine can reduce the spread of the virus from one person to another, but there is still a small possibility of passing it on to others. Therefore, persons who are vaccinated must continue to follow public health protocols.

## **8** If you have recovered from having COVID-19, would you still need to be vaccinated?

Yes, although having an infection with the virus will offer some protection, it is uncertain how long this immunity lasts. Taking the COVID-19 vaccine even after infection will boost the body's ability to produce a longer immune response.

## **9** Will COVID-19 vaccines provide long-term protection?

It's too early to know if COVID-19 vaccines will provide long-term protection. Additional research is needed to answer this question. Most COVID-19 vaccines require two (2) doses given four to twelve weeks apart but other booster doses may be needed in the future. The COVID-19 vaccine helps your body to fight viral infection. Taking the vaccine now will reduce the chances of your becoming very ill and may literally save your life.

## 10 Is there close monitoring of persons vaccinated for any possible side effects?

Yes, there is a period of monitoring in the immediate post-vaccination period. Most vaccine reactions will occur within this time. Monitoring those who have been vaccinated for adverse reactions is a routine step when introducing a new vaccine.

## 11 What can I do to protect myself from getting COVID-19 until I am able to get vaccinated?

- Wear your mask right.
- Wash and/or sanitise your hands often.
- Watch your distance.
- Continue to take these precautions even after you have been vaccinated.

**Juleyette Serrano**  
Senior Health Sister being vaccinated for COVID-19



## 12 Does the vaccine have anything to do with 5G or microchip implantation?

There is no implantation of any device through this vaccine.

## 13 Why are we using the Covishield vaccine?

This is a highly effective vaccine. Its storage and handling temperatures make it well suited to hot climates and we have the capacity to store it on island.

### COVID-19 Vaccination Facts Versus Myths

The Mayo Clinic and Johns Hopkins University have reviewed some of the common myths about the COVID-19 vaccine and countered with the facts.

<https://www.mayoclinichealthsystem.org/hometown-health/featured-topic/covid-19-vaccine-myths-debunked>

<https://www.hopkinsmedicine.org/health/conditions-and-diseases/coronavirus/covid-19-vaccines-myth-versus-fact>