

# CORONAVIRUS

## GOLDEN RULES FOR VACCINATION

### HOW DO VACCINES WORK?

Vaccines trigger/ induce your immune system to create antibodies to fight an infection, just as it does when it is exposed to a disease. When you get a vaccine, your immune system responds. It:

1  
RECOGNISES

recognises the invading germ, such as the virus or bacteria

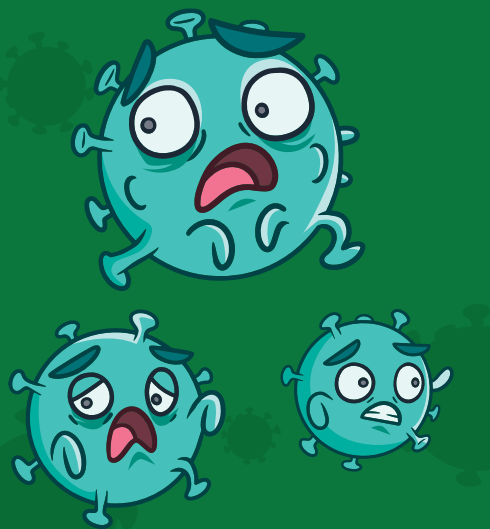
2  
PRODUCES

produces antibodies. Antibodies are proteins produced naturally by the immune system to fight diseases

3  
REMEMBERS

remembers the disease and how to fight it. If you are then exposed to the germ in the future, your immune system can quickly destroy it before you become unwell.

However, because vaccines contain only inactive or weakened parts of germs like viruses or bacteria, they do not cause a disease or put you at risk of its complications.



### WHY SHOULD I GET VACCINATED FOR COVID-19?

To protect ourselves; and  
To protect those around us,

because not everyone can be vaccinated – including very young babies, those who are seriously ill or have certain allergies – they depend on others being vaccinated to ensure they are also safe from vaccine-preventable diseases.

### WILL I NOT GET INFECTED WITH COVID AFTER VACCINATION?

Yes. You can still get infected with COVID-19 after getting vaccinated. Studies have proven that the vaccine protects against severe illness and death. It does not protect against mild to moderate illness.



### I HEAR THAT SOME PEOPLE GET SIDE EFFECTS AFTER THEY GET VACCINATED WITH COVID-19 VACCINE. IS THIS NORMAL?

Yes, some people that receive the COVID-19 experience side effects. These are generally mild to moderate and they are a result of your immune system instructing your body to react in a certain way as a means of protection.

WHERE CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION ABOUT COVID-19 VACCINES?

For more information visit [www.sacoronavirus.co.za](http://www.sacoronavirus.co.za) or [www.health.gov.za](http://www.health.gov.za) or [www.nicd.ac.za](http://www.nicd.ac.za)



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