

## All your questions regarding the COVID-19 vaccine

### 1) Is the coronavirus vaccine safe?

According to vaccine experts, the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine developed by Serum Institute is safe. Some people may experience some physical symptoms after getting the vaccine. Example: Swelling of the area where the vaccine is administered, mild fever, nausea, headache and pain in the body. These problems can be present for one to two days. What to do in this case:

- Wait for 30 minutes in the vaccination centre after getting the vaccine.
- If any problems persist after getting the vaccine, contact a designated health clinic/hospital/doctor right away.
- Follow health regulations even after getting the vaccine.

### 2) There are quite a few vaccines now. Which one is being given in Bangladesh? Oxford-AstraZeneca, Pfizer or Moderna?

To combat COVID-19, the Government of Bangladesh has decided to use the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine developed by India's Serum Institute.

### 3) If the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine is being brought here, why is it not being brought directly from the United Kingdom, instead of from India?

India is one of the leading countries in manufacturing vaccines. 60% of the world's vaccines are produced in India's six big vaccine manufacturing factories. The Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine is developed by India's Serum Institute, which is the world's largest vaccine producing institute. Serum Institute is manufacturing 50 billion vaccines every month.

The Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine is being developed in India's Serum Institute. India did not discover this vaccine. Of the COVID-19 vaccines that are currently in the world, including Pfizer and Moderna's, it has been found that the Oxford-AstraZeneca has the lowest number of side effects.

### 4) Which other countries have taken this vaccine along with Bangladesh? What is the success rate there?

Aside from Bangladesh, this vaccine is being applied by the United States, United Kingdom, Brazil and South Africa. In these countries, the success rate of the vaccine has been between 62-90%.

**5) Will BRAC provide for the purchase of vaccines for its workers along with the government vaccine?**

Other than the government provided vaccine, BRAC has requested for the purchase of vaccines for its workers. The matter is awaiting approval from the ministry.

**6) Who will get the priority when getting the vaccine?**

Everyone will be given the COVID-19 vaccine according to the Government of Bangladesh's priority list. This list includes

1. Government health workers
2. Non-government health workers
3. Freedom fighters
4. Member of the law enforcement forces
5. Members of the force involved in preventative measures
6. Essential staff for state management
7. Elected public representatives
8. Media personnel
9. Employees of the city corporations and municipalities
10. Religious representatives
11. Employees involved in burial services
12. People involved in essential care
13. Employees in sea-rail-airports
14. Government employees from the ministry level to upazilas
15. Bank employees

The government plans to follow the table below to vaccinate 80% of the country's population.

| Step   | Episode | Population (Percentage) | Population (Numbers) |
|--------|---------|-------------------------|----------------------|
| First  | 1 (A)   | 3%                      | 5,184,282            |
| First  | 1 (B)   | 7%                      | 12,096,657           |
| Second | 2       | 11-20%                  | 17,280,938           |
| Third  | 3       | 21-40%                  | 38,561,877           |
| Fourth | 4       | 41-80%                  | 69,123,758           |

|                 |                    |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| <b>In total</b> | <b>138,247,508</b> |
|-----------------|--------------------|

| National level COVID-19 vaccine allotment in the first step |            |
|---|------------|
| People aged above 60  | 12,000,000 |
| Non-government health workers                               | 700,000    |
| Police  | 550,000    |
| Government health workers                                   | 450,000    |
| Bangladesh Army frontline members                           | 300,000    |
| Freedom fighters  | 210,000    |
| Healthcare management and staff                             | 150,000    |
| Public representatives                                      | 70,000     |
| Media personnel   | 50,000     |
| Civil servant, zila administrators and ministry personnel   | 5,000      |

**7) Who cannot take the vaccine?**

Those who have not registered or are not on the priority list will not be given the COVID-19 vaccine. Children below the age of 18, pregnant and breastfeeding mothers, those who are unwell and hospitalised are not eligible to be given the vaccine right now. After they become healthy and eligible, they will be requested to take advice from a doctor and take the vaccine from a vaccination centre.

The vaccine cannot be given without the person's consent.

**8) How many doses of the vaccine should a person take?**

A person needs to take two doses of the vaccine. After taking the first dose, the person has to wait 28 days and take the second dose.

**9) What side effects can be seen after taking the vaccine?**

Just like any other medication or vaccine, this vaccine also has some side effects. In most cases they are very mild, such as pain, swelling, and reddish appearance in the area where the vaccine was administered, muscle and joint pain, fatigue, nausea, fever, tiredness etc. No serious side effects have yet been reported according to the data gathered from the clinical trials. If any problem

occurs after taking the vaccine, the person should immediately go to a hospital and seek advice from a doctor.

**10) Do babies need to take the vaccine?**

The vaccine has not yet been tested on babies in the clinical trials, that is why it is not being given to babies currently. In the future, babies may need to take the vaccine.

**11) Can a person who has recovered from COVID-19 take this vaccine?**

A person can take the vaccine after 28 days of getting a negative result on the COVID-19 test.

**12) Will I be safe from COVID-19 all my life if I take the vaccine, or does the vaccine offer protection for a specific period?**

Experts have said that only taking the vaccine does not guarantee safety from COVID-19. Masks have to be worn, hands have to be washed regularly and social distancing has to be maintained, even after vaccination. Since the effectiveness of the vaccine has not been accurately measured, and no one is certain for how long the vaccine will remain effective in the human body, it is best to maintain safety to avoid contracting the virus.

**13) What is the process of registering on the website or app for the vaccine?**

Those who are interested in getting the vaccine have to register on the web portal 'Surokkha' ([www.surokkha.gov.bd](http://www.surokkha.gov.bd)). The Surokkha app can be downloaded from the Android or Apple app store to register.

Once there, the 'Register' button has to be clicked and the registration type must be selected. Next, the National Identity Card (NID) number and date of birth (according to the NID) have to be provided. Those who do not have a National Identity Card cannot register and cannot take the vaccine at the moment. Those who are below the age of 18 cannot register.

If the information is correctly entered the name of the person will be displayed in Bangla and English. After that, the mobile number has to be entered. Some things which need to be mentioned include: The person's profession, whether they have a long-term illness or comorbidity, and whether they are involved in any work related to COVID-19.

Lastly, the current address of the person registering and which vaccine centre they prefer to go to have to be entered to complete the registration. A card will be issued for the registered person, which needs to be printed. This card has to be brought to the vaccination centre on the day of the vaccination. The date of the vaccination will be informed through SMS to the registered mobile number.

**14) I do not want to wait till my time comes in the serial, can I buy the vaccine with my money?**

No, that is not possible.

**15) How much will it cost to take this vaccine?**

This vaccine will be administered for free.