



COVID-19 VACCINATION

The COVID-19 vaccines produce protection against the disease, as a result of developing an immune response to the SARS-Cov-2 virus. Developing immunity through vaccination means there is a reduced risk of developing the illness and its consequences. This immunity helps you fight the virus if exposed. Getting vaccinated may also protect people around you, because if you are protected from getting infected and from disease, you are less likely to infect someone else. This is particularly important to protect people at increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19, such as healthcare providers, older or elderly adults, and people with other medical conditions. Sometimes, after getting a vaccine, the imitation infection can cause minor symptoms, such as fever. Such minor symptoms are normal and should be expected as the body builds immunity. Vaccines contain weakened or inactive parts of a particular organism that stimulate an immune response within the body. Vaccines help to develop immunity by imitating an infection. This type of infection doesn't cause illness, but it does cause the immune system to produce antibodies

It typically takes a few weeks for the body to produce antibodies after vaccination. Therefore, it is possible that a person could be infected with the disease just after vaccination and then get sick because the vaccine did not have enough time to provide protection

Qatar is currently administering the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine and the Moderna vaccine. Both vaccines are very similar, and people should not be concerned which vaccine they are given. Extensive clinical trials and real-life use of the vaccine on more than 200 million people around the world has shown the Pfizer/BioNTech and Moderna vaccines to be safe and are around 95 percent effective at preventing symptomatic COVID-19 infection after two doses but there may still be a very small number of people who receive the vaccine and still become sick due to COVID-19.

The six-month exemption period has been set in line with recommendations from the US Centers for Disease Control and is based on current clinical evidence. As the COVID-19 vaccines are still relatively new vaccines ongoing work is underway to determine the full duration of the protection they offer.

We are strongly advised by the medical community to have COVID- vaccination as this will offer a reliable level of protection. Please also remember to inform the nurse/s when you have received the vaccination whether through MIC / QP or through other avenues. If you have not already booked an appointment for a vaccination then - Just send an e-mail to vaccine@qp.com.qa to request an appointment. The e-mail should include the following information:

- QAFAC Staff Number
- Requested appointment date for 1st dose or stating "earliest available appointment" (if flexible) – kindly note that you must attend a second appointment 21 days later;
- Requested clinic (Doha, MIC, RLC or Dukhan) – clinics are open from Sunday to Thursday; and
- Mobile number

So far our records show that only about 50% of the QAFAC team has had vaccination, also remember that for herd immunity approximately 80% of the population needs to be vaccinated.

Together we can reduce and mitigate the spread of COVID by adopting and reinforcing safe behavior, be mindful of the COVID precautions, and please encourage vaccination amongst our work teams.