

# COVID-19 Vaccination: Building Global Capacity

Q&A for Session 06: Understanding COVID-19 vaccines - safety and efficacy

Tuesday, March 16, 2021

Thank you for attending the above session for Health workers. Many questions were submitted by participants, either in the Zoom chat during the session itself, or in the two Telegram channels managed by Technet-21 supporting regions, countries, and partners in preparing for COVID-19 vaccine introduction. In this document, we share the answers from presenters to each question.

Links to the session recordings in all languages and presentations can be found on the [Project ECHO website](#).

More information on COVID-19 vaccine introduction can be found in the resources listed below.

- [General questions regarding the COVID-19 vaccines](#)
- [Preparing for COVID-19 vaccination](#)
- [WHO Coronavirus disease \(COVID-2019\) technical guidance](#)
- [TechNet-21 – The Technical Network for Strengthening Immunization Services](#)
- OpenWHO COVID-19 vaccine trainings:
  - [COVID-19 vaccination training for health workers](#)

In addition, TechNet-21 manages two Telegram channels supporting regions, countries, and partners in preparing for COVID-19 vaccine introduction. In these two spaces - one anglophone and one francophone - you will be able to share your experiences, discuss key questions, and connect with experts from around the world. We'll also share new information and global guidance as it becomes available. Join us today:

- [COVID-19 Vaccine Introduction – TechNet-21 \(English\)](#)
- [Introduction des vaccins contre la Covid-19 – TechNet-21 \(Français\)](#)

### **How is the WHO planning to convince countries to keep using AstraZeneca given the negative side effects that have occurred?**

WHO provides evidence-based information to countries about each vaccine that it has reviewed so that countries can make informed decisions.

### **A man and his wife took the AstraZeneca vaccine on 13th of February and on 17th the man collapsed and died without showing any sign of ill health. Can we say the vaccine is the cause of death?**

A timely association between vaccination and fatal disease is not necessarily a causal one. An AEFI causality assessment will have to be done by a group of experts using the WHO methodology accessed here, and the expert group will take a final decision on the cause.

[https://www.who.int/vaccine\\_safety/publications/gvs\\_aefi/en/](https://www.who.int/vaccine_safety/publications/gvs_aefi/en/)

### **I know it is better to have all types of emergency medications available for AEFI kit. However, keeping in mind the poor resource settings, which group of medications you would recommend?**

It is essential to have adrenaline (epinephrine) available for use in the rare event of anaphylaxis. The Video and the Document for anaphylaxis management in a primary care setting will be officially published by WHO in a fortnight. As a precautionary measure, an observation period of 15 min after vaccination should be ensured.

### **What is the procedure to verify that the vaccine is in good condition?**

Inspect the vial to make sure that the liquid within is the right colour. If visible particles are present (when they should not be) or there is discoloration, discard the vial. Additional details are available at [https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/67824/WHO\\_V-B\\_02.16\\_eng.pdf;jsessionid=CC8D32700DA0198EA2A454E4F5BF1CCD?sequence=1](https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/67824/WHO_V-B_02.16_eng.pdf;jsessionid=CC8D32700DA0198EA2A454E4F5BF1CCD?sequence=1)

### **What will be the available test of choice to measure protective antibodies after vaccination?**

This is not routinely done. Each vaccine follows different procedures.

### **COVID-19 vaccines show different results in different environmental condition, do you think environmental condition influence the effectiveness of vaccines?**

Vaccine handling at all levels is a very important component and if this is not managed properly it can cause vaccine failures and programmatic errors. Please see [https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/67824/WHO\\_V-B\\_02.16\\_eng.pdf;jsessionid=CC8D32700DA0198EA2A454E4F5BF1CCD?sequence=1](https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/67824/WHO_V-B_02.16_eng.pdf;jsessionid=CC8D32700DA0198EA2A454E4F5BF1CCD?sequence=1)

Link to the book on vaccine safety communications:

[https://www.euro.who.int/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0007/187171/Vaccine-Safety-Events-managing-the-communications-response.pdf](https://www.euro.who.int/_data/assets/pdf_file/0007/187171/Vaccine-Safety-Events-managing-the-communications-response.pdf)