



To: Principals/Teachers
Topic: Let us all get vaccinated!

Message Objective(s): **To encourage the unvaccinated to heed the President’s call for vaccination.**

Message: With the government pulling out all the stops to procure vaccines and make them readily available to the adult population in South Africa it is quite concerning to note there is vaccine hesitancy across all age groups. There are several reasons why some people are hesitant to take the vaccines, the major one being misinformation being peddled on social media.

Vaccine hesitancy is prolonging the time of reaching herd immunity. To reach herd immunity in the country, 70% of the adult population must take the jab. This will allow the country to return to some normalcy and all economic activities to be restored. It is in this light that the President has called in all adult population to get vaccinated.

Johns Hopkins Medicine views all authorised COVID-19 vaccines as highly effective at preventing serious disease, hospitalisation, and death from COVID-19. If you are hesitant to take the jab, here are some insights to support you as you make your decisions, shared by Sherita Hill Golden, MD chief diversity officer at Johns Hopkins Medicine, who specialises in diabetes, heart conditions and patterns of disease in diverse communities.

1. The COVID-19 vaccine was created quickly but was carefully tested for safety. The development of the COVID-19 vaccines did not cut corners on testing for safety and efficacy. The vaccines were made using processes that have been developed and tested over many years, and which are designed to make — and thoroughly test — vaccines quickly in case of an infectious disease pandemic such as COVID-19. The vaccines themselves were extensively tested by independent scientists, and billions of doses have been safely administered world-wide.
2. COVID vaccine side effects are temporary and do not mean you are sick.
3. Diversity in COVID-19 vaccine testing helped assess safety and effectiveness and trial tests were done across diverse populations.
4. Do you have allergies? You can probably still get the COVID-19 vaccine.
5. People of colour are especially vulnerable to severe COVID-19 because of generations of health inequalities. Getting vaccinated can reduce hospitalisations and death.
6. Getting vaccinated for COVID-19 helps others in your community. The more people who receive the coronavirus vaccines, the sooner vulnerable people can feel safe among others. Also, since every COVID-19 infection gives the coronavirus a chance to mutate, being vaccinated helps prevent variants.





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