

# VAX FAX

## IS THE COVID-19 VACCINE SAFE? AND DO I NEED ONE?

Yes, South Africa's vaccine is safe.

**ALL vaccines** must be tested before they are allowed to be given to people.

### #safetyfirst

## How do governments protect their people from potentially bad vaccines?

- + **Clinical trials.** The vaccine is tested many times to prove that it is safe and effective
- + **Call in the experts.** The World Health Organisation (WHO) leads a special panel of specialists to review the vaccine trials and tests
- + **Power to the people.** Individual governments decide if they want to accept the WHO recommendations on a vaccine – no country can be forced to buy or use a vaccine
- + **Guinea pigs.** Tens of thousands of people volunteered to test the new COVID-19 vaccines to check for side-effects or dangers
- + **Safety concerns.** Researchers, pharmaceutical companies, governments and medical regulators are all involved in checking vaccine data, side-effects and potential problems before allowing the vaccine to be sold or used
- + **Monitoring.** Health officials keep a record of every vaccine, side-effect or problem and take action when necessary to keep citizens safe and healthy.

## Why this COVID-19 vaccine works

The vaccine was developed to provide **IMMUNITY** against the virus.

### How?

Vaccines usually contain **weak or inactive bits of a particular organism** that will cause an **immune response** in your body.

So, this weakened version does NOT cause the disease, but helps the immune system to protect you if you do become infected.

**The COVID-19 vaccine was made to save lives.**