

COVID-19 Vaccine

Facts and Myths

1. Vaccine will not cause actual COVID-19 disease as it does not contain the virus and also the vaccine will not cause the PCR test to become positive.
2. You could experience usual side effects of any other vaccine in the form of fever, bodyaches, headache and joint pains for up to 48 hours, and paracetamol will help to alleviate the symptoms.
3. You can have a bath or a body wash after being vaccinated.
4. There is no connection between experiencing side effects and efficacy of the vaccine.
5. Even if you have received both doses of the vaccine you need to comply with wearing masks, hand washing, and social distancing, as immunized people also can have the disease without symptoms and there is a possibility of them spreading the virus to others.
6. Vaccine is not recommended during pregnancy and breast feeding. However there is no reason to worry if you have already received the vaccine during pregnancy or breast feeding without your knowledge.
7. If you have chronic medical conditions such as long standing lung diseases, heart diseases, kidney diseases, liver diseases, arthritis and diabetes you should get vaccinated. You may continue your medications. Even if you smoke and consume alcohol, you should still undergo vaccination.
8. There is no set upper limit of age for the vaccine. Therefore, you are strongly advised to take the vaccine even if you are over the age of eighty.
9. If you are on dual anti platelet therapy (aspirin/clopidogrel/dipyridamole) can safely go ahead with vaccination without stopping the medication. If you are on warfarin you can get yourself vaccinated if the INR test value is less than 3.
10. If you are on drugs that reduces the immunity (Immunosuppressants) can get yourself vaccinated without any issues.
11. If you had COVID-19 and got well, you can have the vaccine 4 weeks after recovery.
12. There is no impact on fertility following vaccination.
13. If you have severe allergies you are advised to take vaccine under medical supervision.
14. The current vaccine in use is effective in preventing severe disease due to mutant viral strains as well.
15. Full vaccination will be a requirement for foreign travel in future.

A message by the Sri Lanka College of Internal Medicine (SLCIM)

