

## **COVID-19 Risk Communication**

**Expected result:** Refugees understand that COVID-19 vaccination is safe and effective, and gets vaccinated and encourages others to do so to protect lives

### **Key messages for refugees in Uganda on COVID-19 vaccines**

#### **COVID-19 Vaccine is safe and saves lives**

**The COVID-19 vaccine helps prevent severe disease and deaths and reduces the rapid spread of infection. It has been through extensive and rigorous research and safety processes and is SAFE and EFFECTIVE.**

**In Uganda, the vaccine is now available to all persons above 18 years of age. In addition, children aged 12-17 years with chronic underlying conditions like diabetes, Sickle cell disease, cancers, asthma, high blood pressure, heart, kidney and liver diseases will also be vaccinated with ONLY the Pfizer vaccine.**

**The vaccine will help your body's natural defense system to recognize and fight off the virus that causes COVID-19. Apart from the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, for the rest of the COVID-19 vaccines in circulation, you need to receive two doses to be fully protected. Please protect yourself and loved ones by getting vaccinated and encourage others to get vaccinated.**

**For more information, contact the nearest health facility or the Village Health Team (VHT) focal point in your area.**

#### **Key Messages:**

- COVID-19 vaccine has been through extensive, rigorous research and safety processes like other vaccines. The COVID-19 vaccine is **safe** and **effective** and has been approved by the WHO and the Uganda National Drug Authority.
- Uganda's vaccination deployment plan includes refugees. Vaccines are available FREE of charge to both refugees and nationals.
- Uganda currently has six types of vaccines being administered to the population. All these vaccines are FREE, SAFE and EFFECTIVE in preventing severe disease, hospitalization and death.
- Children aged 12-17 years with underlying illnesses will be given the Pfizer vaccine.
- The COVID-19 vaccine has been through extensive, rigorous research and safety processes like other vaccines. The COVID-19 vaccine has been approved by the WHO and National Drug Authority.
- Mild or minor side effects can occur. It is important to note that vaccines are generally safe and effective in protecting you against severe disease and death.
- However, as with all medicines, side effects can occur after getting a vaccine. The known side effects are usually very minor and do not take a long time and disappear. The known common ones are:
  - Pain at injection site
  - A sore arm
  - A mild fever
  - Muscle aches

- Headache
  - Fatigue
  - Mild fever
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- For those who have already received the first dose, ensure that you receive the second dose as guided by the health workers in order to be fully protected.
  - In refugee-hosting districts, vaccination services are available in the facilities listed as attached. If you meet the eligibility criteria, you are encouraged to go to the nearest facility and be vaccinated. Please carry your **ID or any other form of identification that can confirm your eligibility** for the vaccine.
  - Even if you are fully vaccinated, it is important to note that the best way to prevent COVID-19 infection is to avoid getting exposed to the virus. Therefore continue:
    - Wearing your face mask properly covering your nose and mouth while in public.
    - Maintain a distance of at least 2 meters (6 feet) between yourself and another person.
    - Regularly wash your hands with soap and running water or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
    - Avoid public gatherings.
    - Avoid hand shaking and hugging.

**For more information and reporting COVID-19 symptoms:**

Call the Ministry of Health toll free line: 0800 100066, 0800 203033 or send a free SMS to UReport on 8500

**For general inquiries:**

Call the inter-agency (FRRM) helpline number: 0800 323232

**Annex: COVID-19 VACCINATION SITES IN REFUGEE SETTLEMENTS / REFUGEE-  
HOSTING DISTRICTS IN UGANDA**

	<b>District</b>	<b>Service Point</b>
1	Adjumani	Alere HC II, Agojo HC II, Maaji B HC II, Ayiri HC III, Nyumanji HC II, Elema HC III, Pagirinya HC II, Elegu HC II, Aliwara HC II, Mungula HC IV, Bira HC II, Lewa HC II, Ayilo 1 HC II, Ayilo 2 HC III, Ukusijoni HC III, Maaji A HC II, Maaji C HC II
2	Bidibidi	Bidibid HC III, Twajiji HC III, Iyete HC III, Swinga HC III, Koro HC III, Yayari HC III, Kombge HC III, Jomorogo HC III, Luzira HC III, Yoyo HC III, Bangatuti HC III, Migoro HC III, Bolomoni HC III, Igamara HC III, Yangani HC III, Okubani HC III, Ayivu HC III
3	Imvepi	Yinga HC III, Imvepi HC II
4	Kampala	Kisenyi HC IV, Mulago National Referral Hospital, Kwempe Hospital, Kiruddu Hospital, Kisugu HC III, Kiswa HC III, Makerere University Hospital, Naguru Hospital, Bukoto HC II, Kawala HC, Nsambya Hospital, Lubaga Hospital, Mengo Hospital, Kibuli Hospital, Kisasi COU HC, City Hall Clinic, Kitebi HC
5	Kiryandongo	Panyadoli HC III, Nyakadot HC II
6	Kyaka	Bujubuli HC IV, Mukondo HC II
7	Kyangwali	Maratatu B HC III, Rweyawawa HC III, Kasonga HC II, Kyangwali HC IV
8	Lobule	Kuluba HC III, Lobule HC III, Pijoke HC III, Koboko Hospital
9	Nakivale	Rwekubo HC IV, Nakivale HC III, Kibengo HC II, Juru HC II, Rubondo HC III
10	Oruchinga	Nshugyezi HC III, Rulongo HC II
11	Palabek	Awich HC II, Paluda HC III, Akworo HC II
12	Palorinya	Aliba HC III, Belameling HC III, Belle HC III, Ibakwe HC II, Iboa HC II, Idiwa HC III, Itula HC III, Kali HC II, Luru HC III (NFP), Obongi HC IV, Palorinya HC III
13	Rhino Camp	Ocea HC II, Olujobo HC III, Omugo extension HC III, Ofua 3 HC III
14	Rwamwanja	Rwamwanja HC III, Kyempango HC III, Mahega HC II