



Vaccinate for You, Me, the Economy!

The successful Covid-19 vaccine rollout in Anguilla is the key to returning to normal by keeping people safe and reviving the economy.

The Astra-Zeneca vaccine will arrive in Anguilla in early February and it is vitally important that people register their interest in receiving the vaccine at

www.beatcovid19.ai/vaccine

As with any vaccine or medication it is important to be informed, here are some of the frequently asked questions and answers concerning the Astra-Zeneca vaccine.

QUESTION

Why is Anguilla receiving the Astra-Zeneca and not the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine?

ANSWER

Of the three vaccines currently approved for use in the UK and the Overseas-Territories, the Astra Zeneca vaccine does not require the extreme cold storage required during transportation and storage. The health system in Anguilla has persons already trained in administering vaccines that require similar storage and preparation techniques to the Astra Zeneca vaccine. Therefore deployment will be more successful.

QUESTION

Who approved the vaccine - can I be sure it was tested?

ANSWER

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA), are the official UK regulator authorising licensed use of medicines and vaccines. As a regulator, the MHRA work independently of the UK government. Medicine and vaccines are highly regulated products. There have been checks at every stage in the development and manufacturing process, and monitoring continues as the vaccine is being used in the wider population.

QUESTION

How was the vaccine approved so quickly?

ANSWER

There are a number of reasons which made it possible to develop them relatively quickly compared to other medicines.

1. The different phases of the clinical trial were delivered to overlap instead of running one after the other which sped up the clinical process.
2. There was a rolling assessment of data packages as soon as they were available so experts at the MHRA could review as the trial was being delivered, ask questions along the way and request extra information as needed - as opposed to getting all information at the end of a trial.
3. Clinical trials managed to recruit people on multiple continents very quickly as a global effort meant thousands of people were willing to volunteer.
4. The technology used for the Astra Zeneca vaccine has been around for decades. Therefore there was no need to begin research from scratch.
5. Due to modern technology the gene sequence of the virus was mapped in a short time. This allowed vaccine research to begin earlier than normal.
6. Governments around the world assisted with the funding of vaccine research and development due to the global threat of the disease. This meant that the vaccine manufacturers did not have to depend exclusively on private investment and other forms of financing which are difficult to get and can take time to arrange.

QUESTION

Is the vaccine safe?

ANSWER

Yes. The MHRA, the official UK regulator authorising licensed use of medicines and vaccines has said these vaccines are safe and highly effective based on internationally accepted testing methods and standards.

QUESTION

Will the vaccine be mandatory in Anguilla?

ANSWER

The COVID-19 vaccine is not compulsory, but Anguilla's Ministry of Health are working hard to ensure that those who want the vaccine can have it as quickly as possible. This is the best mechanism available to governments today to slow the spread of the disease and protect national development. All residents must do their part in ensuring that the community is protected.

QUESTION

What are the risks of not being vaccinated?

ANSWER

The risk of becoming seriously ill or dying from COVID-19 is very high particularly for the elderly or people with pre-existing health conditions. Additionally, the long term impacts of the disease on human health is still unknown. However, evidence is mounting that effects such as scarred lung tissue, prolonged loss of the senses of taste and smell and other debilitating issues may be permanent in some patients. It is therefore imperative that individuals seek to protect their health by receiving the vaccination.

QUESTION

How does the Astra Zeneca vaccine work?

ANSWER

The vaccine stimulates the body's natural defences by causing the body to produce anti-bodies and killer cells against the virus.

QUESTION

What are the side effects of getting the Astra-Zeneca vaccine?

ANSWER

Regulators and manufacturers have reported mild to moderate side effects of this vaccine which include muscle pain, joint pain, nausea and swollen lymph nodes. As with all vaccines there is also the potential for injection site pain and swelling, fever, chills, headache and tiredness. These side effects are temporary and will not be experienced by all persons.

QUESTION

What does the economy have to do with getting vaccinated?

ANSWER

Anguilla's economy is based on tourism. The pandemic has resulted in the disruption of the industry internationally. The result has been significant declines in growth and revenue which means that jobs have been lost and countries have gone in recession. If the public is not protected against the covid-19 virus then recovery will take much longer because borders will remain restricted, protocols will remain in place, and visitor numbers will remain sluggish.

QUESTION

Who should get the vaccine?

ANSWER

All persons above the age of 18, with the exception of pregnant women and persons who have severe allergic reactions to ingredients of the vaccine, should be vaccinated. The overall aim of the rollout in Anguilla is to have 70% of the population vaccinated as quickly as possible in order to keep Anguilla safe and revive the economy. Anguilla's Ministry of Health have established a list prioritising who should get the vaccine first.

QUESTION

Who will get the vaccine first in Anguilla?

ANSWER

The following groups are prioritised in descending order for the vaccine administration and persons in certain groups maybe contacted before others:

1. Health Workers
2. Civil protection ,border protection and port staff, transportation (Boat, Plane, Taxi)
3. Hospitality workers
4. Persons with underlying conditions
5. Persons living and working in residential care facilities
6. Persons 65 years and older
7. Residents over the age of 18

QUESTION

How do I get the vaccine in Anguilla?

ANSWER

The COVID-19 vaccine will be available to all persons residing in Anguilla without charge. Everyone is urged to register their interest in receiving the vaccine at the following link:

www.beatcovid19.ai/vaccine or call the hotline at Ministry of Health's hotlines at 476-7627, that is 476 SOAP or 584-4263, that is 584-HAND.

Persons will be contacted by health staff via their phone number provided to schedule an appointment at a specified health facility.

QUESTION

Will we be given 1 or 2 doses in Anguilla?

ANSWER

The Astra Zeneca vaccine is a 2-dose protocol.

RESOURCES

How was the vaccine developed so quickly? (from <https://www.ouh.nhs.uk/working-for-us/staff/covid-staff-faqs-vaccine.aspx>)