



## RUMOURS CONCERNS AND RESPONSES BULLETIN

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4

### **Concern :**

Mutations could render current COVID-19 vaccines ineffective in a year or less.

This is currently not known. Research is ongoing regarding the efficacy of COVID-19 vaccines against new variants of concern as they emerge.

The currently approved COVID-19 vaccines being used are efficacious against COVID-19, and most importantly are very effective at protecting against severe disease caused by COVID-19. Therefore, it is important to be vaccinated against COVID-19, in addition to continually following other public health measures such as wearing masks, hand washing or use of hand sanitizers and maintaining physical distance of at least two meters.

### **Rumour :**

Steaming hot water with guava leaves can prevent COVID-19.

There is no scientific evidence that supports steaming hot water with guava leaves can prevent COVID-19.

The known and proven public health measures to protect and prevent from COVID-19 includes wearing masks, hand washing or use of hand sanitizers, maintaining physical distance of at least 2 meters, and getting vaccinated against COVID-19.

### **Concern :**

Many European countries, and Canada, postponed the vaccination campaign given concerns of blood clotting and other issues.

Some European and other countries temporarily paused administration of the Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine while investigating a very rare issue of blood clotting, which has been reported after vaccination, but not fully established to be caused by the vaccine. Such blood clots also occur in the general population without any vaccination. The risk of becoming seriously ill or dying from COVID-19 is far greater than the risk of blood clotting in almost all age groups in all settings.

Currently, 188 countries globally are using the Oxford /AstraZeneca vaccine [Source: WHO Coronavirus (COVID-19) Dashboard], making it the most used COVID-19 vaccine in the world. In Nepal, as of 19 April 2021, more than 1.8 million people have been vaccinated with the first dose of this vaccine.

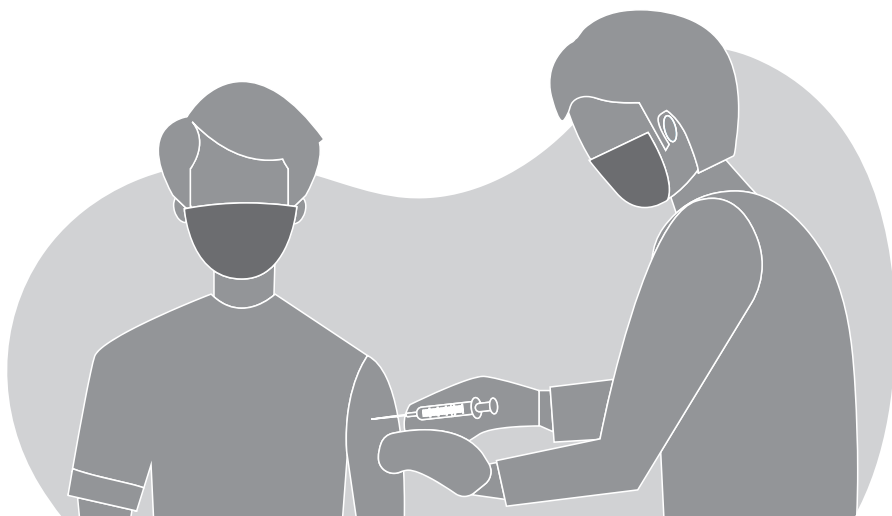
European Medicines Agency considers that the overall benefits of the vaccine continue to outweigh the risks in people being vaccinated. WHO Global Advisory Committee on Vaccine Safety (GACVS) COVID-19 subcommittee as well as other agencies are investigating this rare syndrome to determine if there is any causal relationship with the AstraZeneca vaccine.

**Concern :**

It is still being assessed if the two-shot Chinese vaccine will need booster shots.

This is true for all COVID-19 vaccines, and more research on this is ongoing.

For any COVID-19 vaccine, the recommended number of doses depends on the findings of clinical trials. The need for further doses or booster doses may be established based on various criteria, such as further data on vaccine efficacy and duration of protection with longer term follow-up.



Source: World Health Organization

For questions and concern call at:

Hotline numbers:

Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP)

1115, 1133, 1092



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