

FUTURE IN OUR HANDS THE GAMBIA

NEWSLETTER

JULY 2021



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Education For All Through Community Development



DEBUNKING MYTHS ABOUT VACCINES

THERE HAS BEEN MANY MYTHS ABOUT COVID VACCINES AROUND THE WORLD. HERE ARE SOME MYTHS AND THE TRUTH ABOUT VACCINES ACCORDING TO THE AFRICAN CENTER FOR DISEASE CONTROL & CDC OF THE US.

Myth: there is no COVID

FACT: COVID-19 has been confirmed in every country in the world...There have been 4.7 million positive cases and over 127,000 known deaths from COVID-19 on the continent. Due to limited testing capabilities, the actual figures are likely several times larger.

Myth: Vaccines are dangerous

One myth holds that live viruses are injected into the body and that individuals can die after vaccination. Another says that the vaccines cause infertility or serious side effects that are worse than contracting the virus. Other conspiracy theories hype that the vaccines are in fact poisons that alter the DNA to reduce Africa's population. They also claim that vaccines are a cover to implant traceable microchips, and that Microsoft founder Bill Gates and the U.S. government are behind it. **The reality is that WHO has approved for emergency use listing all vaccines currently available in Africa through the WHO's COVID-19 Global Access (COVAX) facility—AstraZeneca, Moderna, Pfizer, Johnson & Johnson, and Sinopharm. The listing is designed to make vaccines available as rapidly as possible to address an emergency, while adhering to stringent criteria of safety, efficacy, and quality.**

Myth: COVID does not pose a serious threat to Africans.

This theory swirled in African social media circles during the initial outbreak. It claims that "COVID-19 only kills White people," and people of color have "genetic immunity." The myth has persisted, fuelled in part by the lower infection and death rates in Africa compared to Europe and North America. **In actuality, studies have shown that African countries were able to slow the virus through early action and high public support for social distancing in the initial stages of the pandemic...**

Myth: Traditional tonics will cure me. I have no need for vaccines.

African communities have a long-standing culture of self-care, with people only going to hospital when seriously ill. Uncomplicated ailments like colds, fevers, and chest congestion are treated using traditional remedies and local knowledge. As shown in numerous surveys, African communities largely view COVID-19 as a disease that attacks the respiratory tract and causes severe malaria-like symptoms, such as chills and high fevers...In fact, scientific data shows that COVID is not "another type of flu" that can be cured using home remedies. Some highly transmissible variants like the Indian, Kenyan, and Tanzanian ones do not even present flu symptoms and attack the lungs directly. In September 2020, the WHO and African CDC agreed to test the efficacy of African herbal remedies for the coronavirus. Until these are approved for fast-track manufacturing, they are not scientifically proven cures for COVID-19.

SOURCE: <https://africacenter.org/spotlight/dispelling-covid-vaccine-myths-in-africa/> [<https://africacdc.org/>]

Can receiving a COVID-19 vaccine cause you to be magnetic?

No. Receiving a COVID-19 vaccine will not make you magnetic, including at the site of vaccination which is usually your arm.

Is it safe for me to get a COVID-19 vaccine if I would like to have a baby one day?

Yes. If you are trying to become pregnant now or want to get pregnant in the future, you may get a COVID-19 vaccine when one is available to you.

Will a COVID-19 vaccine alter my DNA?

No. COVID-19 vaccines do not change or interact with your DNA in any way. Both mRNA and viral vector COVID-19 vaccines deliver instructions (genetic material) to our cells to start building protection against the virus that causes COVID-19. However, the material never enters the nucleus of the cell, which is where our DNA is kept.

Will getting a COVID-19 vaccine cause me to test positive for COVID-19 on a viral test?

No. None of the authorized and recommended COVID-19 vaccines cause you to test positive on [viral tests](#), which are used to see if you have a **current infection**.

SOURCE: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/facts.html>

GCCA+ TEAM ON A FAMILIARISATION TOUR



A team comprising Mr. Ebrima Drammeh, Mr. Kemo S. Kinteh and Mr. Kebba Jobe has embarked on a familiarisation of communities who are set to benefit from the European Union funded GCAA + project on Climate change mitigation and adaptation. “The FIOHTG led consortium is targeting 12 villages in the regions of NBR, LRR and WCR. The team is also visiting potential phase in villages where a checklist is administered to inform FIOHTG management on the most ideal Communities to add to the VDP. Communities visited so far include Prince, Kerr Mama Demba Holley, Kuntaya and Nawleru Angalleh” said Ebrima Drammeh who is the manager of the project.

ALL STAFF MEETING HELD



FIOHTG has organised its quarterly all staff meeting. The meeting brings together all staff together where Unit Managers present their quarterly reports and plans. Also, staff present challenges and interventions they require from the management. The meeting serves as a forum for peer evaluation and accountability. A cross selection of staff listening attentively can be seen in the photo above.

ANNOUNCEMENT: EID MUBARAK



Eid al - Adha
Mubarak

FIOHTG wishes you a happy & blessed Eid.

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Do you want to share a story with us? If yes, contact us on info@fiohtg.org

Thank you for reading through!