

# FOOD AND DRUGS AUTHORITY REGULATORY UPDATE



## Identification Number: FDA/CSD/CPE/PRS/21/005 TYPE OF COMMUNICATION: COVID-19 VACCINE SAFETY

**17th May 2021**

### **JOINT COVID-19 VACCINE SAFETY REVIEW COMMITTEE- SAFETY MONITORING UPDATE 5**

The Food and Drugs Authority (FDA) continues to proactively monitor Ghana's vaccination programme and vaccination continues to be the most effective way to reduce deaths and severe illness from COVID-19.

As of Thursday, 5th May 2021, the Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) had administered 851,647 doses of Covishield Vaccine in Ghana with few and mild side effects being reported. The most common side effects continue to be pain at the injection site, headache, chills and fever and these resolved within a day or two.

The FDA's Joint COVID-19 Vaccine Safety Review Committee (JCVSRC) which has been established to review all reported side effects after vaccination held its 6th meeting on Friday, 7th May 2021. The Committee assessed all reports received and based on information currently available from the FDA's safety monitoring activities of Covishield as well as from international sources, the JCVSRC continues to be satisfied that the benefits of using Covishield to vaccinate against COVID-19 far exceed any risks the vaccine may pose.

Furthermore, information from countries that have deployed millions of second doses of COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca (Covishield) indicates that side effects reported after the second dose were milder and reported less frequently than after the first dose.

The Committee therefore recommends the continued use of the vaccine and advise those who are scheduled to receive their second dose of Covishield as planned by Ghana Health Service beginning 19th May 2021 to go forward for their vaccine when the deployment begins.

The FDA will continue to monitor the safety of Covishield vaccinations and any other approved vaccine that will be deployed to fight the pandemic.



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