FOOD AND DRUGS AUTHORITY
REGULATORY UPDATE

Identification Number: FDA/CSD/CPE/PRS/23/017
TYPE OF COMMUNICATION: COVID-19 VACCINE SAFETY

4th April 2023

JOINT COVID-19 VACCINE SAFETY REVIEW COMMITTEE - SAFETY MONITORING UPDATE NO. 17

Ghana's COVID-19 vaccination programme which started in February 2021 has now entered its third year. During this period, the Food and Drugs Authority has been actively monitoring the safety of all administered vaccines to record any adverse events that may have occurred, provide timely support to vaccine recipients and to realise the overall goal of ensuring that the benefits of vaccination outweigh any possible risks of side effects.

Data available as of 24th March 2023 shows that over 24 million doses of the five COVID-19 vaccines granted Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) by the FDA had been administered in Ghana.

The cumulative doses of the five vaccines are:

- 10,545,038 doses of Oxford/AstraZeneca COVID-19 Vaccines
- 7,356,784of Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine
- 1,065,357 of Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine
- 5,112,004doses of Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 Vaccine
- 18,368 doses of Sputnik V COVID-19 vaccines

The Joint COVID-19 Vaccine Safety Review Committee (JCVSRC) at its 18th meeting held on 27th February 2023 in Accra reviewed all safety reports received from the vaccinations in Ghana as well as reports from international sources. The JCVSRC concluded, based on the extensive data collected in Ghana, that side effects reported from the COVID-19 vaccinations are well tolerated and the reported side effects are few and not different from those identified during clinical trials of these vaccines.

The JCVSRC was also pleased with the improved uptake of COVID-19 vaccines in some regions of Ghana which initially recorded low vaccination rates due to vaccine hesitancy. The Committee commended all stakeholders for their cooperation.

The FDA assures the general public that it will remain vigilant in monitoring the safety of Covid-19 vaccines in Ghana. The FDA will also continue to review all safety data received in relation to all regulated products under its purview and will provide regular updates to healthcare professionals and the general public if any safety issues are found.

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