



COVID-19 VACCINATION Q&A

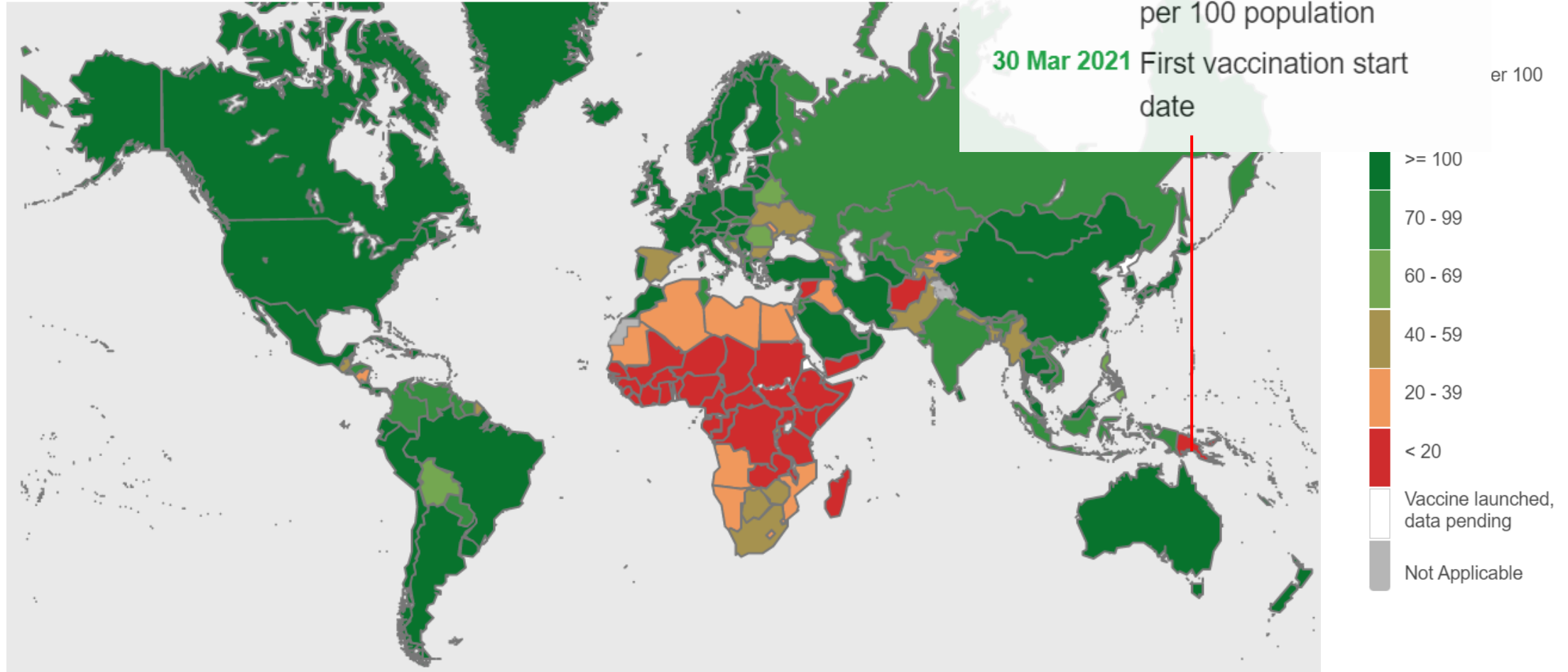
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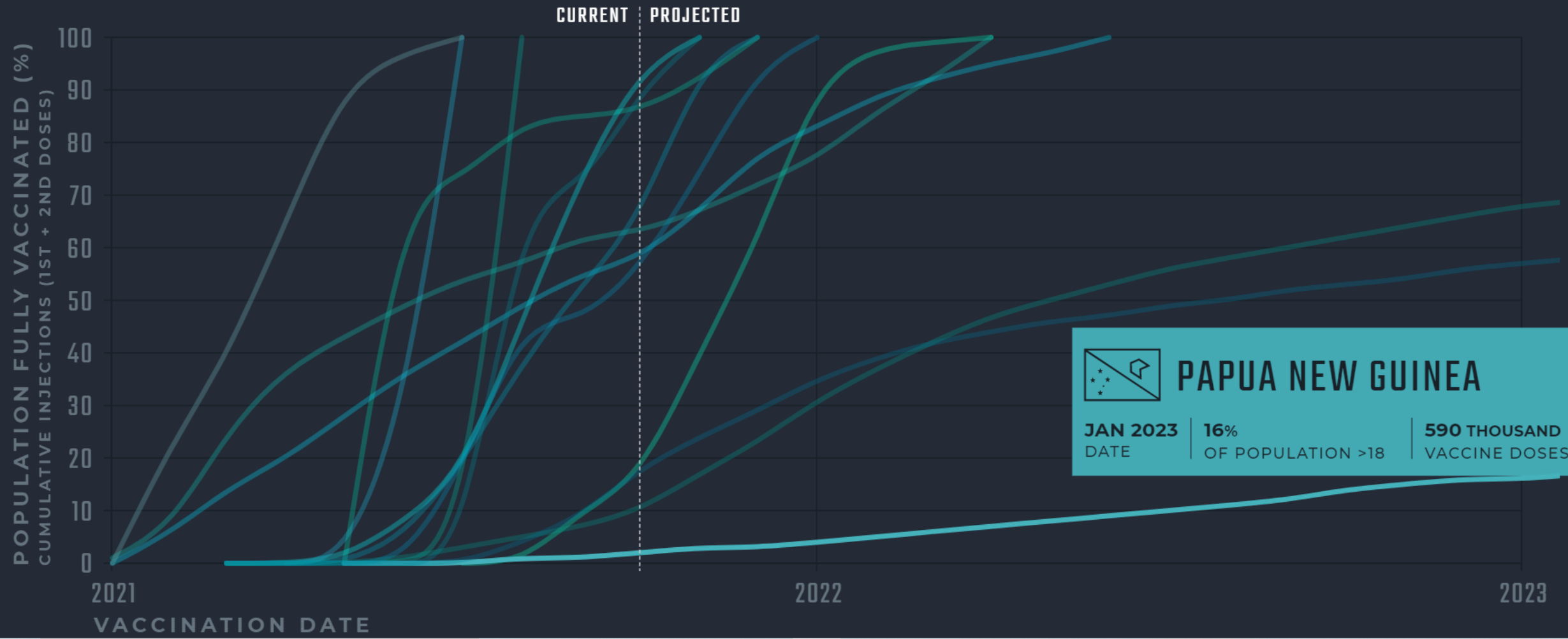
BUSINESSES4HEALTH
THURSDAY 25 NOVEMBER

WHY SHOULD WE BE CONCERNED ABOUT COVID?

- Over 259 million people worldwide have caught Covid, and more than 5 million people have died. In PNG, over 500 people have died from Covid.
- Some **vulnerable** members of our communities (elderly, pregnant women, people with diabetes, heart or lung disease) are more likely to get seriously ill or die if they catch Covid
- There are **no proven treatments** readily available in PNG, so if you do get very sick with Covid, only basic care can be provided
- Some people have Covid symptoms for many months after they are infected (**Long Covid**) leaving them unable to work or care for their families

GLOBAL VACCINATION UPTAKE

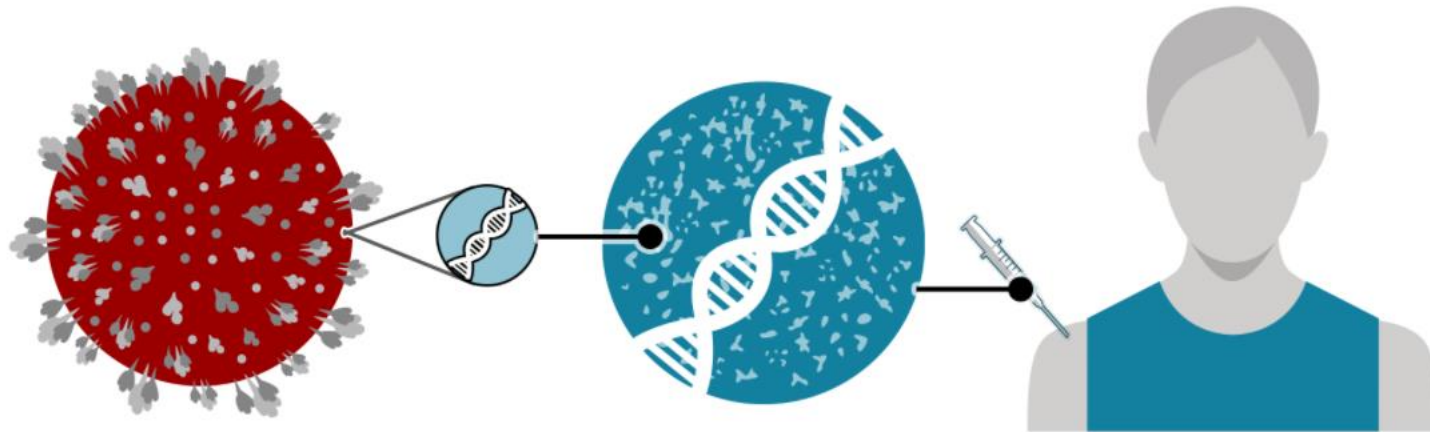




Source: <https://pacificvaccination.lowyinstitute.org/>

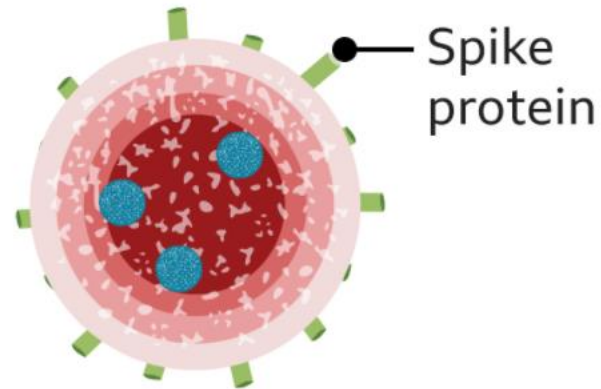
HOW DO THE AZ/J&J VACCINES WORK?

- 1 Scientists take genes for the spike protein on the surface of the coronavirus and put them into a harmless virus to make a vaccine
- This is injected into the patient

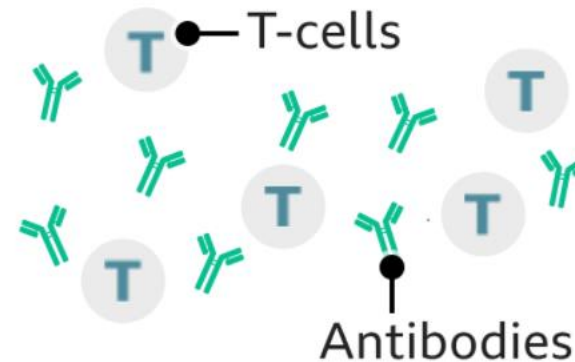


HOW DO THE AZ/J&J VACCINES WORK?

- 2 The vaccine enters cells which then start to produce the spike protein

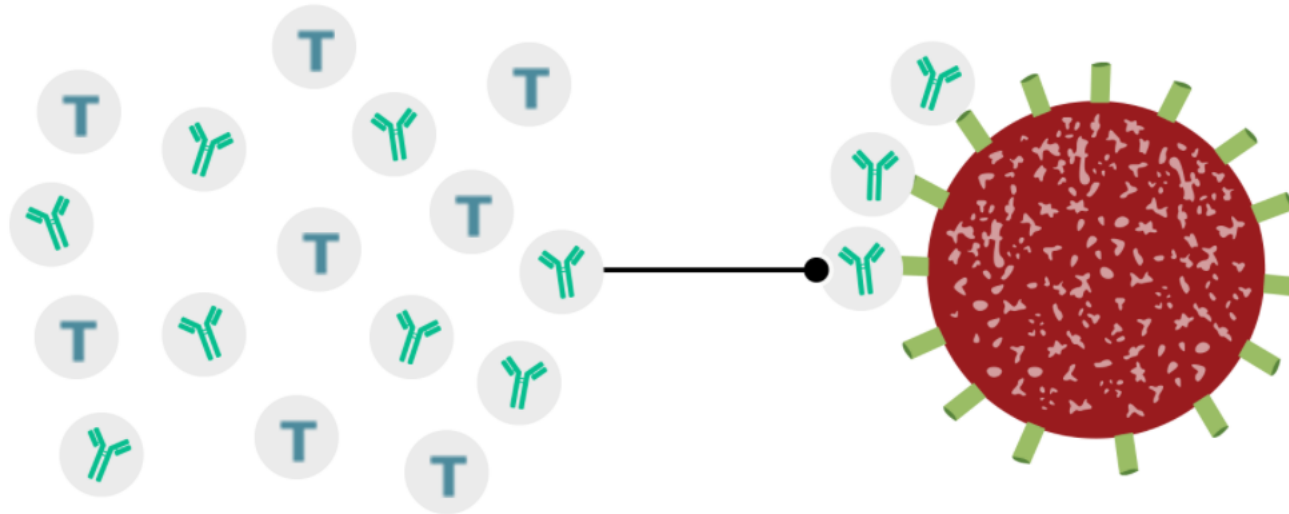


The body's immune system reacts, produces antibodies and activates T-cells to destroy cells with the spike protein



HOW DO THE AZ/J&J VACCINES WORK?

- 3 If the patient later catches coronavirus, antibodies and T-cells are triggered to fight the virus



HOW WELL DO THE VACCINES PROTECT ME?

If a vaccine has an efficacy of 80 percent:



It does not mean that the vaccine will only work 80% of the time.

It does mean that in a vaccinated population, 80% fewer people will contract the disease when they come in contact with the virus.



AstraZeneca and Johnson & Johnson vaccines provide more than 70% reduction against symptomatic COVID-19, hospitalisation, or severe illness

HOW WERE THE VACCINES DEVELOPED SO FAST?

The COVID-19 vaccines were developed quickly but all of the safety steps required for vaccine development were followed. The speed was due to several factors, including:

1. Covid is caused by a simple virus, and scientists already had experience developing vaccines for these types of viruses. The genetic information was also shared globally so scientists could quickly begin their work.
2. There was a lot of funding put towards vaccine research so scientists had access to the latest technology, equipment, and resources they required.
3. Lots of people volunteered to participate in the clinical trials, so the required number of participants was reached quickly.
4. Companies started manufacturing the vaccines while test results were being finalised, so as soon as the vaccines were approved, they could be distributed.

SHOULD PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV BE VACCINATED?

- People living with HIV were included in the AstraZeneca and Johnson & Johnson vaccine trials
- The immune response (both antibody and cellular) was no different in people living with HIV and people who are HIV-negative
- People living with HIV who were vaccinated did not experience any more side effects or different side effects than people who are HIV-negative
- People living with HIV may be at higher risk of severe illness or death if they catch Covid because their immune system does not work as well
- Important to continue taking HIV treatment/ART to stay well and practice Niupela pasin to protect against Covid

KEY POINTS ABOUT THE VACCINES IN PNG

- They **do not** contain live virus, so they **cannot** cause COVID-19 infection
- Anyone over the age of 18, including pregnant women and people with comorbidities, should consider getting any Covid vaccine available to them as soon as possible
- Even if you have had Covid, it is still a good idea to get vaccinated as it will better protect you against catching Covid again – which is possible
- It takes 2 weeks after your vaccine for it to properly protect you. If you have the AstraZeneca or Sinopharm vaccine, you must have **both doses** for it to be effective