

How Covid-19 vaccines stack up

This month South Africa will receive a million doses of the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine and next month, 500,000 doses from the Serum Institute of India, to vaccinate health-care workers.

Here are some pros and cons of a few leading vaccine candidates, some of which we may see being administered in South Africa in the next few months.

Vaccine name and type	Pros	Cons	Who manufactures it	Efficacy and dose
 AstraZeneca	Stable in fridge for 6 months or more; Affordable: sold at cost price of \$6 for 2 doses	None reported but dosage may be modified over time	AstraZeneca	70% 2 doses, 4 weeks apart
 Johnson & Johnson	First company to seek registration with SA Health Products Regulatory Authority (SAHPRA); Could get quicker access given local production by Aspen;	Efficacy not yet proven, in final trial stages;	Johnson & Johnson; Aspen Pharmacare will be producing the vaccine in Nelson Mandela Bay	Initial results show antibodies in more than 90% of volunteers. Results expected this month; Single dose
 BIONTECH Pfizer	Already approved in Canada and other countries	Expensive new technology: about \$38 for 2 doses; Needs to be stored at -70°C	Pfizer & BioNTech	95% 2 doses, 3 weeks apart
 moderna	Approved in Canada and other countries	Expensive: expected to cost about \$50 for 2 shots; Needs to be stored at -20°C to last 6 months, will last only 30 days in fridge	Moderna	94% 2 doses, 4 weeks apart
 NOVAVAX	Could get rapid access as Novavax has a deal with large manufacturer, the Serum Institute of India, which is supplying the AstraZeneca vaccine to SA this month; Can be stored in a fridge	Awaiting final trial results soon	Novavax	2 doses, 3 weeks apart Efficacy rate and cost not yet determined
 Sputnik V	Approved in Russia and Belarus; Popular among public when released for mass vaccination in November; In December AstraZeneca & Gamaleya Institute registered a new trial to test a combination of their vaccines	Approved first in August before final trial results released; Awaiting scientific publication of detailed results	Gamaleya Research Institute, Russian Ministry of Health	91.4% of a small sample 2 doses, 3 weeks apart
 国药集团 SINOPHARM	Approved in China, United Arab Emirates and Bahrain; Administered to health care workers, officials and others since September	Awaiting publication of detailed, final trial results	Chinese state-owned company Sinopharm	79.3% 2 doses, 3 weeks apart