



COMMUNITY SNAPSHOT

*"I-COVID vaccine ungayihlatshwa
iyagulisa, yenza isiyenzi lamankazana
angena esikathini engami."*

Community listening group, Ndebele

TRANSLATION:

"When you receive a COVID-19 vaccine
you fall sick, experience dizziness and
girls menstruate non-stop."



FACT CHECKING

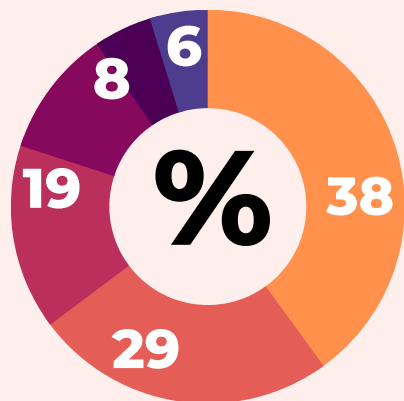
- According to Doctor Mayibongwe Mzingwane from the faculty of Medicine at the National University of Science and Technology (NUST), “COVID-19 vaccines do not contain female hormones that may be associated with hormonal imbalances and abnormal menstruation or impair the function blood cells responsible for clotting”.
- A study published by Obstetrics and Gynaecology suggests that women who were vaccinated against COVID-19 experienced a slight, temporary increase (less than a day) in the duration of their menstrual cycle compared to pre-vaccination menstrual cycles. This variation is temporary and harmless, and there is no evidence that COVID-19 affects a woman’s health or fertility as they have been proven to be effective and safe.
- According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), COVID-19 vaccines can cause mild to moderate side effects which include fever, fatigue, headache and body ache. These side effects can be managed with rest, plenty of non-alcoholic liquids and taking medication to manage pain and fever as can be advised by a doctor.



RECOMMENDATIONS FOR COMMUNITIES

- **Community outreach workers can use community dialogues targeting** women, adolescent girls, youths, and migrants where health experts raise awareness on the causes of changes in menstrual cycles such as stress and birth control pills.
- **Community Health workers can use skits,** animation videos and drama targeting women and adolescent girls when they visit local clinics to demystify misinformation and myths on the effects of COVID-19 vaccines on sexual reproductive health in general and the menstrual cycle.

RUMOUR TRENDS



Trending Rumor Themes

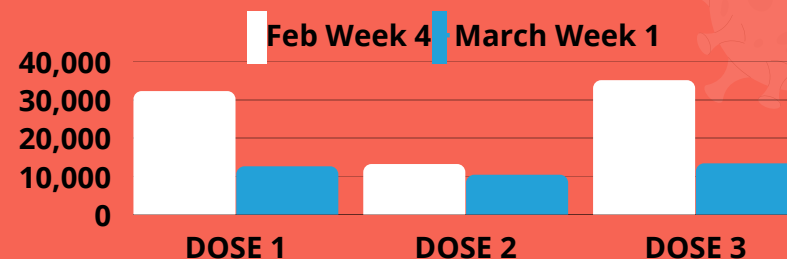
- COVID-19 vaccines are experimental.
- COVID-19 is a hoax.
- COVID-19 vaccines affect sexual reproductive health.
- Government is using COVID-19 for corruption.
- Home remedies are more effective than COVID-19 vaccines.

Source: Visualisation by Internews: Data by RiT 2.0 Global Rumours Dashboard

Between March 1 and 7, 2023, Internews in Zimbabwe collected 261 rumours on COVID-19, and other health topics. One hundred and six (106) rumours were collected online (Facebook: 45 and Twitter: 61) and 155 through in-person interaction. Trending rumours were, "COVID-19 vaccines are experimental" (38%), "COVID-19 is a hoax" (29%), "COVID-19 vaccines affect sexual reproductive health" (19%), "Government is using COVID-19 for corruption" (8%) and "Home remedies are more effective than COVID-19 vaccines" (6%).

COVID-19 TRENDS

Week-on-week Comparison



Source: Visualisation by Internews: Data by Ministry of Health and Child Care (MoHCC)

- First vaccine dose uptake in Zimbabwe decreased by 60% from 32,276 doses administered in week four of February 2023 to 12,612 doses administered during the first week of March 2023.
- There was a 21% and 61% decrease in the uptake of second and third vaccine doses, respectively. Second vaccine dose uptake decreased from 13,177 to 10,387 doses, while third vaccine dose uptake decreased from 35,135 to 13,384 doses.
- The drop in the vaccination rates between the two weeks may be due to the fading momentum of the COVID-19 vaccination campaign rolled-out between February 12 to 17, 2023.
- As of March 7, 2023, there were 397 active COVID-19 cases with 22 being hospitalised. Twelve of the hospitalisations were vaccinated while 10 were unvaccinated. Two COVID-19 related deaths were recorded during the first week of March 2023.
- Cumulatively, as of March 7, 2023, Zimbabwe had administered 6,841,479 first vaccine doses and 5,075,486 second vaccine doses translating to 50.7% of the 10 million herd immunity target which was initially set for end December 2022. A total of 1,611,685 people have received the third vaccine dose.