

## Vaccines with Professor Jonathan Van-Tam video transcript

[Text: Vaccines with Professor Jonathan Van-Tam #6]

[Text: Are there any risks to taking a vaccine?]

All medicines have side effects.

That is just a known fact.

If you go and buy a packet of paracetamol or a packet of aspirin from a supermarket and you will get out this big piece of paper and its going to look like an essay and it tells you all the things that have been noted as possible side effects.

So all medicines have side effects and it's the same for vaccines.

We know for example if you're sticking a needle in to somebody's arm, they are quite likely to get a sore arm as a result of it.

We know there are going to be some signs and symptoms, perhaps a fever for a short while, perhaps feeling a bit grotty for a day or so that are absolutely going to be side effects.

Actually, if you have a vaccine and get side effects, my personal view is that, that shows the vaccine is taking, it shows that it is working, it is not a negative thing, it shows that your body is reacting to it in exactly the way it should to start to make antibodies.

Now for the Covid-19 vaccines of course they are new but they will have been typically given to 40,000 – 50,000 volunteers before anyone will give them a license that they are safe and effective.

So I'm fairly confident that any common side effects are going to show through in that clinical trials population and we don't license vaccines that are not safe .

[Text: Department of Health & Social Care]