

## RBDCOV GLOSSARY

| TERM                           | DEFINITION  |
|--------------------------------|---|
| <b>Active Substance</b>        | The main ingredient in the vaccine that is responsible for its effect.  |
| <b>Adjuvant</b>                | An ingredient (a substance or group of substances) used in some vaccines that helps create a stronger immune response.  |
| <b>Antibody</b>                | A protective protein, produced by the immune system in order to fight harmful pathogens such as toxins, microorganisms (in this case viruses) or cancer cells.                                      |
| <b>Antigen</b>                 | Antigen is a structure (usually a protein) recognised by the immune system that will trigger the production of antibodies and other reactions of the immune system.                                 |
| <b>Autoimmune Disease</b>      | Autoimmune disease happens when the body's natural defence system cannot tell the difference between your own cells and foreign cells, causing the immune system to mistakenly attack normal cells. |
| <b>Biobank</b>                 | A biobank is a repository of biological samples (i.e., blood, tissues, DNA material, various cells, etc.), stored for a variable amount of time, usually for research purposes.                     |
| <b>Biochemical Analysis</b>    | Analysis that allows to looking at the specific properties of biological material.  |
| <b>Booster</b>                 | The effectiveness of any vaccination wanes over time. Booster vaccinations are meant to bring back the immune response to its original level or even better.  |
| <b>CD4-Cells</b>               | CD4-cells are a type of white blood cells that are needed to direct and coordinate the complex reactions of the immune system.  |
| <b>Clinical Investigator</b>   | The person who is responsible for the conduct of a clinical trial.  |
| <b>Clinical Trial</b>          | Research in humans to assess the specific properties, safety and efficacy of a treatment, procedure or vaccine.   |
| <b>Comorbidity</b>             | Any other condition one might have beside the primary illness.  |
| <b>Dialysis</b>                | Dialysis is a procedure to remove waste products and excess fluid from the blood when the kidneys do not work properly.   |
| <b>Haematological Analysis</b> | Analysis of the blood.  |



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| <b>Immune Response</b>          | Whenever the immune system detects a foreign invader (like bacteria, viruses or cancer cells), it reacts in order to protect the body.   |
| <b>Immunocompromised</b>        | Having a weakened immune system. People who are immunocompromised have a reduced ability to fight infections and other diseases.   |
| <b>Immunodeficiency</b>         | It is a state in which the immune system cannot react properly because it is weak(ened).   |
| <b>Immunogenicity</b>           | Immunogenicity is the ability of a substance to elicit an immune response.   |
| <b>Immunogens</b>               | Immunogens are substances that can elicit an immune response. Often synonymous with "antigen".   |
| <b>Immunoglobulins</b>          | Also called antibodies, immunoglobulins are proteins that can recognise and inactivate other structures (usually proteins).  |
| <b>Immunosuppressed</b>         | Having a weakened immune system. The same as "immunocompromised".  |
| <b>Medical Contraindication</b> | When a certain medication or treatment is not suitable because of circumstances that could lead to a bad outcome.  |
| <b>Pathology</b>                | Pathology is the study of the causes and effects of disease or injury.   |
| <b>Phase III Study</b>          | Clinical trials are usually divided in three phases: Phase I looks at the safety in volunteers who do not have the targeted disease. Phase II aims to find the correct dose. Phase III looks at the safety and efficacy in a limited number of patients. Sometimes there are also Phase IV studies which are done after marketing authorisation. |
| <b>Receptor Binding Domain</b>  | The structure of a protein that can attach to the specific part of the receptor protein that triggers a response.  |
| <b>Recombinant Protein</b>      | A protein that is made or boosted by genetic techniques (also known as gene therapy) in cells that usually would not produce this protein or would produce it in lower quantities.   |
| <b>RNA</b>                      | "Ribonucleic acid" - While DNA stores genetic information in most organisms (except some viruses), RNA is the "working copy" that serves many purposes in the cells. However, in some viruses (like SARS-CoV-2), RNA is the carrier of genetic information.  |
| <b>Screening</b>                | Screening is the process of ensuring that the participants of the study match the eligibility criteria.  |



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| <b>Side Effects</b>   | Side effects are defined as any other reaction one might have to a medicament or vaccine besides the desired one.   |
| <b>Spike Protein</b>  | This is the surface protein that the SARS-CoV-2 virus uses to attach to and infect its target cells.  |
| <b>Viral Vaccines</b> | A vaccine based on either an inactivated virus or an attenuated one (a weakened virus that does not cause disease).   |
| <b>Virus Variants</b> | When new viruses are produced, there is always a certain amount of errors. When one of these errors by chance leads to a better survival chance of the virus, this "virus variant" will outperform the others and become dominant. The appearance of viral variants is always a reaction to selective pressure - either by the immune system or by drugs. |
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