



## **Seacole Group Statement on Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine**

The Seacole Group is an independent body that represents 90 Black Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) Non-Executive Directors in the NHS.

There is clear evidence of a disproportionate serious impact of COVID on BAME communities and, sadly, we have lost dedicated members of the NHS and front-line social care staff as well as loved ones in the wider communities.

The clinically tested and approved COVID-19 vaccine available in the UK provides us with an opportunity to begin to return to normality and mitigate the impact of COVID, particularly amongst high-risk groups.

That is why we support the vaccine programme that is based on need and vulnerability.

Public confidence in any mass vaccination is essential and well-founded concerns must be addressed. Therefore, we strongly recommend that NHSEI provides a clear communications strategy that supports accurate and credible information about COVID and the vaccination.

We will continue to raise the concerns of BAME communities about the vaccine with colleagues in NHS and share the information as and when we receive it.

The Seacole Group encourages all sections of the BAME community and BAME NHS staff to utilise the opportunities offered by the vaccine. We understand that ultimately, it is the choice of the individual but as senior Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic members of the NHS, we are keen to support this as it reduces the risk of severe illness and death which can result from COVID.

The Seacole Group  
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