



COVID-19 IN AFRICA

HOW TO AVOID FALSE TREATMENTS

While the development of new medicine to prevent or treat coronavirus provides hope, false treatments, vaccines and falsified or substandard medical products (FSM) are fraudulently distributed by unqualified vendors claiming to boost the immune system and defend against the virus. Moreover, they are often manufactured in poor or unhygienic conditions.



FSM affect everyone economically: consumers, importers, manufacturers and governments.



FSM cause an estimated 116,000 deaths annually in sub-Saharan Africa*.



FSM may contain toxic doses of dangerous ingredients, compromise treatments and encourage drug resistance.



Recommendation

- Follow WHO advice

Quality

- Look for suspicious presentation, unusual fonts or colours
- Identify any spelling or grammatical errors
- Verify the legibility of information on both the primary and secondary packages including the registration number, batch number, expiry date and manufacturer's address
- Check the security seal and inspect the physical appearance of the drug such as defects, cracks, swelling, discolouration, shape, crushed tablets, consistency
- Learn to use the Mobile Authentication Service

* WHO, study on the public health and socioeconomic impact of substandard and falsified medical product, 2017