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சுவசிரிபாய

SUWASIRIPAYA

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சுகாதார அமைச்சு
Ministry of Health

මගේ අංකය) EPID/400/n-CoV/Vaccine
எனது இல)
My No.)

ඔබේ අංකය)
உமது இல)
Your No.)

දිනය)
திகதி) 2021/10/13
Date)

DDG/NHSL

Provincial Directors of Health Services,
Regional Directors of Health Services,
Directors/ Teaching, Provincial General, General, Base hospitals,

COMIRNATY : Covid 19 mRNA Vaccine (Nucleoside modified -Pfizer BNT) vaccination campaign for 18 -19 year age group

COMIRNATY Covid 19 mRNA (Nucleoside modified-Pfizer BNT) vaccine implementation will commence and continue from 15/10/2021 in the Colombo district and scale up to all districts from 21/10/2021, for children aged 18 -19 years.

The Ministry of Health has taken the decision to vaccinate 18-19 year age group persons who have completed 18 years until up to 20 years, against COVID-19. The vaccine which will available to vaccinate them is COMIRNATY, Covid 19 mRNA Vaccine (Nucleoside modified-Pfizer BNT).

- Vaccination for 18 -19 year age group will be implemented throughout the country as a school-based programme.
- **School authorities will assist to get down all students still in the school enrolment registers, considered as studying in year 13 and 14 (those who are sitting for the Advanced Level examination for the 1st attempt and the 2nd attempt in 2021).**
- They are eligible to receive the vaccination through the school Covid-19 vaccination programme.
- **Any one born between 16th October 2001 to 15th October 2003 is eligible to receive the vaccination at this phase of the campaign.**
- All MOOH are advised to carry out the school-based vaccination programme for Covid-19 vaccination as the school-based vaccine delivery as the main vaccination strategy.
- In addition to school based main delivery strategy, MOH office central clinic can be functioned only on Saturdays to vaccinate eligible missed persons from the school-based vaccination.
- Hospitals which considered at the level of Base hospitals and above can be identified to conduct vaccination clinics missed persons from the school-based vaccination.
- It is advised to vaccinate eligible age categories at the MOH office and the hospital clinics based on the residing district, irrespective of the district of the school attended for any missed children through the school-based vaccination.

- It is advised to vaccinate with a single dose for this age group as recommended by the Advisory Committee on Communicable Diseases for decision to the date.
- Advise strictly to adhere to all the precautions and vaccination principles as practiced during other school-based vaccination clinics (as with HPV vaccination and dTd vaccination).
 - Eligibility screening needs to be done by a Medical Officer
 - Emergency tray with all essential medicines is advised to be ready at all times and advised to check at every morning according to the guidelines given by the Epidemiology Unit.
 - Transport arrangements needs to be planned and ready to be used in any emergency AEFI situation after the initial management.
 - Adhere to all infection prevention precautions to ensure protection from Covid-19 during vaccination sessions.
- All hospital Directors and MOOH are advised to ensure opening a vaccine vial in the presence of 6 persons at MOH offices and in hospitals
 - otherwise need to join them to the nearest vaccination centre with proper communication with relevant staff at those stations, to ensure vaccination facilities are available to receive.
- It is essential to minimize the vaccine wastage at all costs.
- It is advised to request minimum required vaccine stocks with the plan to get down additional stocks as with the requirement to minimize the wastage.
- It is advised to request vaccines through the Regional Epidemiologists as practiced for previous vaccination campaigns.
- The vaccines taken out from the Ultra-Low Temperature (ULT) freezer (from -70⁰C) will not be able to re-freeze in ULT freezer.
- **Vaccines supplied to the RMSD, MOH offices and hospitals should be stored only in the 2⁰-8⁰C in the Ice Lined Refrigerator (ILR), adhering to the national vaccine storage guidelines issued by the Epidemiology Unit.**
- **Even though ULT freezer (-70⁰C) facilities available in anywhere in any districts, Comirnaty-Pfizer vaccine issued after the Epidemiology Unit cold stores should not be stored at ULT freezer as it is transported in 2⁰-8⁰C.**
- Advised strictly to follow the COMIRNATY, Covid 19 mRNA (Nucleoside modified -Pfizer BNT) vaccination guidelines issued on 05/07/2021 by the Epidemiology Unit, Ministry of Health find in www.epid.gov.lk for vaccine storage, vial preparation, administration, prepare, follow up and surveillance of Adverse Events Following Immunization(AEFI). (Only deviation is administration of a single dose for this age group as with the decision for the date)
- Consent form for 18–19 year age group will be the same consent form used for adult vaccination and is attached herewith. It needs to be completed and signed before the vaccination. (Annexure 1 – which is the Annexure 5 of the main guidelines COMIRNATY-Covid 19 mRNA Vaccine, Nucleoside modified -Pfizer BNT, issued on 05/07/2021, available on www.epid.gov.lk)
 - Advise to get the parent/gusrdian signature where possible on the same consent form
 - In school vaccination session, the authentication needs to get from the school authorities

- In MOH office and hospital vaccination for missed children, authentication needs to be taken from the Medical Officer on duty in the vaccination clinic
- Each vial of COMIRNATY, Covid 19 mRNA (Nucleoside modified -Pfizer BNT) has 6 doses to vaccinate (follow the guidelines issued on 05/07/2021 by the Epidemiology Unit, Ministry of Health).
- Need to maintain regular communications with the Consultant Epidemiologists at the Epidemiology Unit, Provincial and District Consultant Community Physicians and Regional Epidemiologists in respective districts on the vaccination process to receive required vaccine supply and technical guidance to ensure minimum wastage, storage and achieving maximum coverage of eligible children for their protection from Covid-19.
- MOOH and hospital directors/ responsible focal persons in the hospital are responsible for the vaccine stock management to minimize the wastage:
 - All COMIRNATY, Covid 19 mRNA (Nucleoside modified -Pfizer BNT) vaccine stocks receiving to the MOH office or hospital need to be stored in the ILR/refrigerator, marked clearly and stored separately according to received date, as separate supplied stocks will be expired in 30 days after taking out from the ULT.
 - Need to closely monitor until complete the vaccination from initial supply of vaccines, on "1st- received-1st – use" basis to ensure all received vaccines will be used within 28 days from the receipt date (at MOH and at hospitals).
 - Should not keep vaccines until 28 days without utilized and in 14 days of the receipt need to identify whether there are any excess vaccine doses remaining. In such situations, required to communicate with the Regional Epidemiologist in the district and with Consultant Epidemiologists at the Epidemiology Unit immediately for required redistributions without delay.
 - If any remaining unopened vials are returned after the clinic session, need to store it separately in a "return unopen vaccine vial container", separately labelled and stored in the ILR and need to first use returned unopened vials first on the next vaccination day.
- Regional Epidemiologists are advised to closely monitor,
 - COMIRNATY, Covid 19 mRNA (Nucleoside modified -Pfizer BNT) vaccine stocks at the RMSD and should not exceed >30 days on receiving vaccines supplied at one lot.
 - On receiving vaccines at different dates, the date received needs to be clearly labelled, stocks on separate dates need to be separately stored and should not request additional vaccine stocks until district vaccines stocks distributed to MOH offices and hospitals are used within 30 days of receipt to the RMSD from the Epidemiology Unit.
 - Option of re-distribution of vaccines within institutions needs to be considered at all instances before re-order vaccines from the main stores of the Epidemiology Unit.
- MOOH and hospital directors/ responsible focal persons in the hospital are responsible for vaccination clinic organization:
 - Prevent unnecessary gathering in and outside the school clinics and clinic premises.
 - Seating arrangements needs to be planned to prevent overcrowding.

- More than one registration desks should be arranged for registration procedure to prevent standing time and queues.
 - Need to deploy adequate trained and competent staff for vaccination (vaccine vial preparation and vaccination): refer to the poster attached for relevant steps of vaccine vial preparation (Annexure 2) and videos available at the google drive (<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1kvudLAUbxNKv3Gmt5mnjkckibrJFXM5h?usp=sharing>) shared through emails.
 - Identify vaccination data entry teams to deploy at the school vaccination centre, MOH office and hospitals to enter vaccination data in to the vaccine tracker.
- The individual vaccination data should be entered in to the web based “Vaccine tracker” system.
 - At the end of each day, total number vaccinated needs to be provided to the Epidemiology Unit, copying to Regional Epidemiologist in respective districts.

If you need any further clarification, please contact the Chief Epidemiologist of the Epidemiology Unit. Additional resource materials can find on the website www.epid.gov.lk .

Thank you,



Dr. Asela Gunawardena
Director General of Health Services

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Cc:

- i. Hon. Minister of Health
- ii. Secretary, Ministry of Health
- iii. Additional Secretary (Public Health Services)
- iv. Deputy Director General (PHS) -1
- v. Deputy Director General (MS)
- vi. Chief Epidemiologist
- vii. Director/MCH/FHB
- viii. Provincial and district CCPs
- ix. Regional Epidemiologists
- x. MOO/MCH

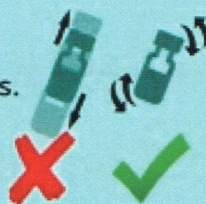


Epidemiology Unit
Ministry of Health, Sri Lanka

PREPARATION, DILUTION & ADMINISTRATION OF COMIRNATY (PFIZER / BIONTECH VACCINE)

Preparation and Dilution

1. Check use before date.
2. Inspect vial for any debris or inconsistency in liquid.
3. Gently invert the vial 10 times.
(Do not shake)

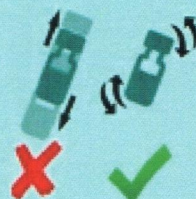


Dilute Vaccine

4. Withdraw 1.8mL of diluent provided
(Sodium Chloride 0.9% solution) using 3cc syringe.
(Gently tap on the syringe to get rid of any air bubbles)
5. Clean the top of the vial with an alcohol wipe.
6. Dilute vaccine vial with 1.8mL diluent provided.
(Sodium Chloride 0.9% solution)
6. Slowly remove 1.8mL of air from vial to equalise pressure before removing the needle.
7. Gently invert the vial 10 times.



**Do not touch the top
of the vial after diluting**



Do not shake

8. Label the vial with date and time of dilution.
(6 hours after time of dilution)

Administration

9. Take the 1cc low dead volume syringe and replace needle with 23G x 25mm (1 inch) needle.
10. Clean the top of the vial with an alcohol wipe.
10. Withdraw 0.3mL dose.
11. Administer intramuscularly.

WHAT YOU NEED



Cominarty
(Pfizer)
Vaccine



Diluent



3cc
Syringe



1cc
Syringe
with
23Gx25mm
(1 inch)
needle



Alcohol
Wipe