

Frequently Asked Questions on COVID-19 Vaccination (For Staff)

COVID-19 VACCINATION OF STAFF IN THE EDUCATION SECTOR	
Q1	Why are staff in the education sector prioritised for the COVID-19 vaccination?
	<p>The vaccination of staff complements existing efforts in keeping our educational institutions safe. As our staff come into contact with a large number of students, this can further minimise transmission risks in our institutions.</p> <p>Vaccination is critical to protect us, our families, colleagues and students against COVID-19. Vaccination also protects those in our community who cannot be vaccinated due to medical reasons. This collective protection will become more effective as more people are vaccinated and is a key enabler allowing us to return to normalcy.</p>
Q2	Who will be included for the vaccination?
	<p>Currently, all Singaporeans and long-term residents aged 40 and above are eligible for vaccination. To complement the earlier vaccination exercise for personnel in education institutions and help keep students and staff safe, all AU staff including vendors under the age of 40 will also be invited to be vaccinated.</p>
Q3	Is it compulsory for staff to be vaccinated?
	<p>While it is not compulsory for staff to be vaccinated, we would like to strongly encourage our colleagues to come forward to be vaccinated if you are medically eligible. All of us in the educational institutions have a duty of care to our students. When more of us are vaccinated, we would then be able to better protect ourselves and our students, and keep our institutions safe.</p>
Q4	Can I work in an educational institution if I do not get vaccinated?
	<p>Yes, staff who are not vaccinated can still continue working in the educational institution.</p>
Q5	Can I get re-deployed to a backroom work with less exposure if I do not get vaccinated as I am not medically eligible?
	<p>In general, no re-deployment is required for staff who are not vaccinated. Vaccination offers an added protection to staff and reduce transmission risk, but not getting vaccinated does not render you ineligible to perform your current role.</p>
REGISTRATION FOR VACCINATION	
Q6	Can I take my time to sign up for vaccination?
	<p>The SMS includes a unique booking link to make an appointment to be vaccinated. You have 14 days from the receipt for the SMS to schedule an appointment via the booking link.</p> <p>Within the 14 days, you will have priority to schedule your appointment. If you have not booked a slot within the 14-day time limit but are still keen to be vaccinated, you may re-register their interest and be notified to make an appointment when there are slots available. You can re-register by clicking on the same unique link in the original SMS notification.</p>

Q7	Will NUS cover the vaccination cost?
	<p>In Singapore, vaccination will be provided free to all Singaporeans, Permanent Residents, Work Permit (including FDWs), S Pass, EP, LTVP and Dependant's Pass holders. Most employees should fall under one of these categories and get the vaccination free.</p> <p>Eligible employees may claim the cost of vaccination using their Healthchoice points if they do not receive free vaccination.</p>
Q8	Do I need to inform my supervisor of my vaccination appointment?
	<p>Please keep your supervisors informed of your vaccination appointment, so that staggering within the departments could be planned if necessary to ensure business continuity.</p> <p>It would be helpful if you could schedule your appointment for both doses such that it avoids clashes with periods of critical NUS activities.</p>
Q9	Can I ask for time off from work to attend my vaccination appointment?
	<p>Employees may apply for medical leave on vaccination day. Under normal circumstances, medical leave is granted subject to the submission of a valid medical certificate (MC). In this case, no MC is required, and employees are only required to upload the proof of vaccination, such as vaccination card, in CHRS Time Off.</p>
Q10	Will employees be able to reimburse transport cost to and from the vaccination site?
	<p>Transport cost to and from vaccination is not reimbursable as the vaccination locations in Singapore are quite accessible across the island. The vaccination centres are located in high population catchment areas and/or along major public transport routes for accessibility.</p>
Q11	Is there medical coverage for vaccination side effects?
	<p>MOH has introduced a vaccine injury financial assistance programme for COVID-19 vaccination (VIFAP) to provide financial assistance for affected persons in the rare event of serious side effects that are assessed to be related to COVID-19 vaccines administered in Singapore. The VIFAP will provide the following:</p> <p>(a) A one-time pay-out of up to \$10,000 will be provided to an eligible individual who is hospitalised requiring care in the High Dependency or Intensive Care Unit but subsequently recovers from medically significant serious side effects; and</p> <p>(b) A one-time pay-out of \$225,000 will be provided to an individual who dies or suffers permanent severe disability as a result of COVID-19 vaccination.</p> <p>All 7 Integrated Shield Plans (IP) insurers have also extended coverage to COVID-19 vaccine complications that lead to hospitalisation.</p> <p>For eligible employees, medical coverage for vaccination side effects is provided for under our Group Medical Insurance Scheme.</p>
Q12	Can I reschedule my vaccination appointment?
	<p>Yes, you may reschedule your appointments using the same registration link in the original SMS. When doing so, please take into consideration the timing of both doses and avoid the periods of critical school activities. You should also update your supervisor.</p>

Q13	If I want to wait till more are vaccinated and more data on safety is released, will I still have an opportunity to be vaccinated later?						
	You may get vaccinated later when the vaccination is open to the general population.						
Q14	If I am on medical leave or unwell, should I still go for the vaccination?						
	Please do not go for the appointment. You should only take the vaccination when you are well. If you have not taken your first dose, please cancel and rebook both appointments using the same registration link issued via SMS. If you have taken your first dose and wish to reschedule your second dose, please call MOH at 1800 333 9999.						
Q15	Some foreign companies are providing cash incentives for employees who take up COVID-19 vaccination. Will NUS be doing the same?						
	No. We will not be providing cash incentives for employees to improve vaccination uptake. The decision to take a vaccine is a personal one and should not involve monetary influences. We encourage employees to find out more about the safety and benefits of COVID-19 vaccine and why vaccination is important here .						
TAKING THE VACCINATION							
Q16	How many doses are there?						
	The vaccine consists of two doses, with the second dose due 6 to 8 weeks after the first dose. You must receive both doses to have the full vaccine protection.						
Q17	Is COVID-19 vaccination safe for those with chronic illness such as hypertension, high cholesterol and diabetes?						
	The study population for Pfizer-BioNTech's and Moderna's phase 3 trials included persons with medical comorbidities, who were at risk of serious, life-threatening disease and death from COVID-19 infection, and there were no safety concerns reported in this group. Persons with chronic illnesses are recommended to receive the vaccine for personal protection as well as protecting their loved ones. They can also seek the advice from the attending doctors at the Vaccination Centres.						
AFTER THE VACCINATION							
Q18	Are there any side effects? What should I do if I suffer from any side effects?						
	The vaccine has been assessed to be safe for use. However, you may experience common side effects, similar to other vaccines. Most side effects are mild or moderate, and usually get better within a few days. The table below lists some common side effects that have been reported with this vaccine, and how to manage them.						
	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Side Effects</th> <th>How to Manage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Pain, redness, swelling at the injection site</td> <td rowspan="3">Paracetamol 1 to 2 tablets every 6 hours as needed</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Fever, chills</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Headache, muscle pain, joint pain</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Side Effects	How to Manage	Pain, redness, swelling at the injection site	Paracetamol 1 to 2 tablets every 6 hours as needed	Fever, chills	Headache, muscle pain, joint pain
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	<p>See a doctor if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The side effects persist or get worse • The fever persists for more than 48 hours (2 days) <p>In very rare cases, this vaccine can cause a severe allergic reaction. Signs of a severe allergic reaction include: difficulty breathing, swelling of your face, throat, eyes or lips, a fast heartbeat, dizziness and weakness, a bad rash all over your body. If you experience a severe allergic reaction, seek medical attention immediately. Call 995 or go to the nearest A&E immediately.</p>				
Q19	Can I take leave if I am unable to work from the side effects of the vaccination?				
	<p>You may take leave if you are unable to work from the side effect.</p> <p>You may also utilize our telemedicine service (WhiteCoat) or visit a GP for medical consultation and obtain MC for medical leave.</p>				
Q20	What sorts of activities will vaccinated persons be allowed to do (e.g. karaoke)? Will they be exempted from measures such as pre-event and/or pre-departure/ entry to Singapore testing? What about public health measures such as quarantine?				
	<p>While there is evidence that COVID-19 vaccines are effective in preventing symptomatic disease, the extent of their ability in preventing transmission to others is still being studied.</p> <p>Hence, vaccinated persons should still continue to adhere to public health and general safe management measures such as mask wearing.</p> <p>To continue to keep our AUs safe, the SMMs will remain even after the vaccination exercise is completed. The SMMs will be adjusted accordingly based on the national posture.</p>				

For more information, visit the vaccination microsite at <https://vaccine.gov.sg>.

Information on the COVID-19 vaccinations can also be found at <https://www.moh.gov.sg/covid-19/vaccination>.

For other queries pertaining to vaccination registration, health and safety, post vaccination matters, please contact MOH's hotline @ [1800 333 9999](tel:18003339999) for assistance.