

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS** **ON COVID-19 VACCINATION FOR STUDENTS**

### **1. Why are students being prioritised for vaccination?**

Vaccination of students in schools and IHLs is part of the larger national effort to keep our education institutions and the wider community safe.

All medically eligible individuals aged 12 years and above should consider getting vaccinated when this is made available to them.

The risk of community spread remains, which comprehensive coverage of COVID-19 vaccination can mitigate. For the individual, vaccination also reduces the chances of COVID-19 infection, and prevents severe illness if infected.

### **2. Will the vaccine protect students against new variants of COVID-19?**

There is evidence that the vaccines do confer protection against the variants. Nevertheless, it is an evolving area of study, and HSA and the Expert Committee on COVID-19 Vaccination (EC19V) are closely monitoring this issue.

### **3. Why is parental consent required for students below the age of 18?**

Consent from a parent or a legal guardian is a legal requirement for medical procedures in minors.

### **4. Will these students be able to choose which vaccine they would like to receive?**

Based on the Health Sciences Authority's (HSA) approval of the medical suitability of the vaccines, individuals below the age of 18 will only be offered the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine, while individuals aged 18 and above will be offered a choice between the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine and the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine. Both vaccines have been assessed by HSA to meet the safety and efficacy standards.

Students who are medically eligible should consider getting vaccinated when vaccination is offered to them.

### **5. How long do parents/students have after receiving the SMS to book their vaccination appointment?**

The SMS includes a unique booking link to make an appointment to be vaccinated. They have 14 days from the receipt for the SMS to schedule an appointment via the booking link.

Within the 14 days, they will have priority to schedule their appointment. If they have not booked a slot within the 14-day time limit but are still keen to be vaccinated, they may re-register their interest and be notified to make an appointment when there are slots available. They can re-register by clicking on the same unique link in the original SMS notification.

### **6. If students are unable to get vaccinated during the duration of the vaccination exercise (e.g. due to being unwell or overseas), will they be able to get vaccinated later?**

Students who are unable to get vaccinated during the duration of the MOE vaccination exercise may do so later when vaccination is open to the general public for their age bands and if they are medically eligible to do so at that point in time.

**7. Will school activities be affected for students who receive the vaccination? Can students schedule their vaccination during school hours?**

To minimise disruption to school activities, we encourage students to:

- Schedule their vaccination early as soon as possible;
- Consider the timing for both their first and second doses when scheduling their vaccinations; and
- Sign up for slots during the current academic year break or during weekends, if they are able to.

**8. What should students or their parents do if they have yet to receive the SMS for the vaccination?**

For AUs students, those aged 18 and above will receive SMS invitations directly. For students below 18 years of age, SMSes will be sent to their parents or legal guardians. Students or parents who have yet to receive an SMS by the dates stipulated by their institutions should inform designated point-of-contacts in their institutions quickly.

**9. What happens if students miss their vaccination appointment? Will they be allowed to make another appointment?**

Students who miss their first vaccination appointment during the duration of MOE's vaccination exercise will be able to reschedule later when the vaccination is open to the public for their age bands, if they are medically eligible to do so then.

If students miss their second vaccination appointment, they should contact MOH at 1800 333 9999 for further assistance.

**10. Will students be allowed time off from their AUs to take their vaccines? How would this work and be facilitated by AUs?**

In the first instance, students in AUs can try to book their appointments at a time when they are available, according to when their schedule allows for the flexibility. Students can apply for time off on a case-by-case basis.

**11. For IHL students, what happens if I have side effects from the vaccination and am unable to take examinations, assessments or attend classes?**

IHL students who have side effects from the vaccination should inform their IHLs that they are unwell and unable to attend school. If the symptoms persist or get worse, they should see a doctor. If they are unable to attend their examinations and assessments, they should inform the IHLs immediately so that the institutions can provide timely advice and assistance.

**12. Will Safe Management Measures (SMMs) in IHLs change after the vaccination exercise is completed?**

The COVID-19 vaccine is effective in preventing symptomatic disease for the vast majority of those vaccinated, but it is still possible for vaccinated individuals to get infected. While the

Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine and Moderna COVID-19 vaccine are highly effective, they are not 100 per cent effective.

To continue to keep our campus safe, the SMMs will remain even after the vaccination exercise is completed. The SMMs will be adjusted accordingly based on the national posture.

**13. Under the IHLs, are recent graduates eligible for the vaccination exercise?**

Recent university graduates may register for vaccinations later as part of the national vaccination exercise, when it is opened to the general public for their age bands and if they are medically eligible to do so at that point in time.

**14. Under the IHLs, are CET students, post-graduate students and students on LOA/gap year eligible for the vaccination?**

All full-time IHL students are eligible in the vaccination exercise. This includes full-time post-graduate students and full-time CET trainees.

Students who have deferred their studies (e.g. to take a leave of absence or gap year) can register to be vaccinated when vaccination is open to the general public for their age bands and if they are medically eligible to do so at that point in time.

**15. Are trainees under the SGUnited Skills Programmes included in the student roll out since these are full-time programmes?**

As these are full-time programmes, trainees under the SGUnited Skills Programmes in our IHLs are included in the vaccination exercise.

**16. Why are part-time IHL students excluded from the vaccination exercise?**

Full-time students are prioritised as they spend more time and have more interactions on campus, and hence are exposed to greater risk of possible transmission.

Part-time students can register to be vaccinated when vaccination is open to the general public for their age bands and if they are medically eligible to do so at that point in time.

**17. With IHL students being vaccinated, will the suspension of overseas programmes (e.g. overseas internships, exchange programmes etc) be lifted?**

The IHLs will continue to align their overseas educational programmes with the prevailing national advisory on overseas travel for Singaporeans and residents.