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INFORMATION ON VACCINATION (V-1.1)



BY

Blue Circle Medi Services Pvt Ltd.



BLUE CIRCLE MEDI SERVICES HEALTH CIRCULAR Information on “Vaccination”



Introduction: India started Covid-19 vaccination in the Country from 16th January, 2021. In order to respond quickly and effectively to the Covid-19 pandemic a broad range of Covid-19 vaccines were developed globally using various technologies and platform.

The two vaccines majorly used in India are :

- (1) Covaxin TM India's indigenous Covid-19 vaccine.
- (2) Covishield TM the Serum Institute of India developed in collaboration with ICMR.

Further strengthening the fight against Covid-19, CDSCO @MoHFW_INDIA has given three approvals in a single day for:

- CORBEVAX Vaccine
- COVOVAX Vaccine
- Anti-Viral drug Molnupiravir

For restricted use in emergency situation.

India approves emergency use of Covid-19 jabs COVOVAX, CORBEVAX and MERCK'S anti-viral pill.

Vaccines for Children aged 15 to 18 years:

We have been reeling under the Covid-19 pandemic for two years now and still there is a long way to go. The pandemic is far from over. So, it is better to protect yourself and your kids by getting the vaccination at the earliest. Besides there is growing threat of Omicron variant which is potent enough to become the dominant Covid variant.

According to WHO Covid-19 vaccines are safe for most people aged 18 and above including people with pre-existing conditions such as auto immune disorders HT, diabetes, Asthma, Pulmonary liver and kidney disease as well as chronic infections that are stable and control.

- India will start Covid-19 vaccination of children aged 15 to 18 years from 3rd January, 2022.
- Children aged 15 to 18 years can register with school photo ID's for vaccination.
- The registration process will require the child to submit student Id-card on the COVIN portal for Covid-19 vaccination.
- Children can register for vaccines from 1st January, 2022.

It is less urgent to vaccinate children compared to older age group and health workers because children and adolescents tend to have milder disease as compared to adults.

Recommended Vaccines :

Till now DGCI has approved the Bharat Biotech Covid-19 vaccine 'COVAXIN' this vaccine has got approval for emergency use on children, Vaccination may not provide 100% protection but it can reduce the risk of developing severe symptoms and cut down the risk of hospitalization and fatality.

The second wave of Corona virus caused by the DELTA variant has proved that children are not the only carriers of virus as believed earlier. They can develop severe symptoms and may suffer from post infection complications. Keeping these points in mind, getting the jab is the best and the only way to keep your little ones safe from the highly contagious virus.

Myths regarding Covid-19 Vaccination.

- The Vaccine will cause disease.
- I don't need the vaccine if I have been infected.
- You don't need mask or social distancing after vaccine.
- Both doses of vaccine are not required.
- You need to follow Covid appropriate behavior even after getting vaccinated.
- The first shot builds protection and the second shot boosts the protection.
- Vaccine has severe side-effects.
- Yes I do need vaccine but there are no reports to show till when the natural immunity will last.



Keeping in view the recent global surge of COVID-19 cases, detection of Omicron variant which has been categorized as a Variant of Concern (VOC) it has now been decided to further refine the scientific prioritization & coverage of COVID-19 vaccination as follows:

1. COVID-19 Vaccination of children in the age-group of **15-18 years** to be started from 3rd January 2022. For such beneficiaries, vaccination option would be **“Covaxin” only**.
2. For Health Care Workers (HCWs) & Front Line Workers (FLWs) who have received two doses, another dose of COVID-19 vaccine would be provided from 10th January 2022.
3. The prioritization and sequencing of this precaution dose would be based on the completion of 9 months i.e. 39 weeks from the date of administration of 2nd dose.
4. All persons aged 60 years and above with co-morbidities who have received two doses of COVID-19 vaccine, will be provided with a precaution dose from 10th January 2022.
5. The prioritization and sequencing of this precaution dose would be based on the completion of 9 months i.e. 39 weeks from the date of administration of second dose.
6. All citizens irrespective of their income status are entitled to free COVID-19 vaccination at Govt. Vaccination Centres. Those who have the ability to pay are encouraged to use Private Hospitals' Vaccination Centres.

Co-WIN features and provisions:

1. Health Care Worker's, Front Line Worker's and Citizens 60+ with co-morbidities:
 - a) All will be able to access the vaccination for precaution dose through their existing Co-WIN account.
 - b) Eligibility of such beneficiaries for the precaution dose will be based on the date of administration of 2nd dose as recorded in the Co-WIN system.
 - c) Co-WIN system will send SMS to such beneficiaries for availing the precaution dose when the dose becomes due.
 - d) Registration and appointment services can be accessed through both, the online and the onsite modes.
 - e) The details of administration of the precaution dose will be suitably reflected in the vaccination certificates.
2. **New beneficiaries aged 15-18 years:**
 - a) All those aged 15 years or more will be able to register on Co-WIN. In other words, children born between 2005 and 2007, shall be eligible.
 - b) Beneficiaries can self-register, online through an existing account on Co-WIN or can also register by creating a new account through a unique mobile number, this facility is available for all eligible citizens presently.
 - c) Such beneficiaries can also be registered onsite by the verifier /vaccinator in facilitated registration mode.
 - d) Appointments can be booked online or onsite (walk-in).
 - e) For such beneficiaries, option for vaccination would only be available for Covaxin as this is the only vaccine with EUL for the age-group 15-18.

Frequently asked questions on Vaccination:

Q. When will be the Covid-19 booster vaccines be available in India?

Ans: India will start administering Covid-19 booster shots as a precautionary measure to healthcare and other front line workers from 10th January, 2022.

Q. What is fully vaccinated against Covid-19?

Ans: Being fully vaccinated means that you have finished your two doses of vaccination and two weeks have passed.

Q: Can you catch Covid-19 after two vaccines?

Ans: Yes, no vaccine is 100% protective. People can get Covid-19 even after vaccination. However, the vaccination will help protect from developing severe disease.

Q: How long do Covid-19 vaccination side effects last?

Ans: Like all medicines, the Covid-19 vaccines can cause side effects but not everyone gets them. Most side effects are mild and should not last longer than a week such as sore arm from the injection.

Q: Why do some parents hesitate to get the shot?

Ans: When it comes to getting vaccinated against Covid-19 or any other disease many parents hesitate. They do not believe in the idea of exposing their kids to chemicals about which they have limited knowledge. They feel that it is best to develop immunity naturally rather than exposing their kids to chemicals. Apart from this parents refuse to get the jab on a religious basis and others due to fear of the effectiveness of the vaccine and its long term impact.

Q: Should you get your child vaccinated?

Ans: At present getting your kinds vaccinated against Covid-19 is the best way to protect them from infectious diseases. Looking at the impact of Corona virus on the healthcare system and the number of lives it has claimed across the Globe vaccination seems the only way to cut down the risk of infection. Moreover, the virus is continuously mutating, posing challenges to our immunity and healthcare.

Q: What can be possible side effects of the jab?

Ans: The vaccines approved for kids have been tested diligently for effectiveness and complications. Only after that has been approved by the Drugs Controller General of India for use on the general public. The clinical trials of two drugs currently approved by the drug control body suggests that the virus does not cause severe side effects. Minor discomfort can be expected like fever, pain at injection site, drowsiness, redness, body pain and fainting. Experiencing these side effects after the jab is actually a sign that your kid's body is building immunity against the virus. Even the adults witness the same symptoms after getting vaccinated.

Guidelines will come into effect from 3rd January 2022 & will be reviewed from time to time.

