

COVID-19 VACCINE – FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

SECTION 1: Vaccine information

1. What are the types of COVID-19 vaccine?

Currently there are 4 main type of COVID-19 vaccine. The difference between each type of vaccine is in the mechanism of administration of COVID-19 virus information (protein subunit / genetic information) into human body system (*refer Table 1 below*). There are:

- i) whole virus
- ii) protein subunit
- iii) viral vector
- iv) nucleic acid

2. How do these vaccines work?

The vaccine works by introducing information from COVID-19 virus to our body system to initiate formation of antibody against said virus. Once the antibody has been produced, the memory is stored in our body immune system. Next time you are infected by COVID-19 virus, the pre-formed antibody will fight the infection as soon as it enters our body system.

3. What is vaccine effectiveness?

Vaccine effectiveness means ability of the vaccine to prevent the “outcome of interest” in real world. Outcome of Interest for COVID-19 vaccines is the ability of vaccine to reduce number of symptomatic, severe cases and death from COVID-19 infection.

4. What is the effectiveness level of these vaccines?

Effectiveness rate varies from one vaccine to another. Details of these figures can be found in Table 1. In general, based on the latest data from countries that have already started their vaccination program, effectiveness rate recorded are higher than minimum requirement set forth by WHO, which is 50%.

5. Will the vaccine prevent transmission of COVID-19 viruses?

At this juncture, it is not yet known. The research on whether vaccination can prevent the recipient from being infectious is ongoing. Further data is required before conclusion can be made. However, as it is expected that people who have been vaccinated will have no or mild symptoms if infected by COVID-19 viruses, the transmission risk will be reduced significantly. Ultimately, if more than 70% of our community has achieved protection, we will form the herd immunity that means transmission will be halted in that community.

6. What are the known side effect of these vaccines? How common it is?

The known side effects are pain/swelling over injection site, headache, fatigue, fever, nausea, joint and body pain. More serious side effect includes lymph node swelling and allergic reaction.

In UK, as of 31 Jan 2021, overall side effect rate are 3-4 cases per 1000 doses given and majority of the side effects recorded are injection site swelling/pain and general symptoms such as headache, fever, fatigue and body pain. Severe allergic reaction (anaphylaxis), on the other hand, is at 5.0 cases per million doses as per recorded in the USA.

7. I've been infected and recovered from COVID-19 earlier. Do I still need to get vaccinated?

Yes, you are advised to get yourself vaccinated as it is not known how long the protection will last following COVID-19 infection. Vaccination will provide adequate and longer protection compared to infection alone

8. Can someone get COVID-19 infection from COVID-19 vaccine?

No, you can't get COVID-19 infection from the vaccines.

9. I've read in the news that there are cases of people diagnosed with COVID-19 even though they have completed their vaccination? Is it true and why does it happen?

Yes, that is correct. This is because, no vaccine is 100% effective to prevent COVID-19 infection at the moment. Even the vaccine with best efficacy shows only 95.1% effectiveness in phase 3 clinical trial. Generally, effectiveness will be lower once vaccine is introduced into real world or it is also possible that you are infected with new COVID-19 variant. However, even though no vaccine is 100% effective, it has been proven that COVID-19 vaccination reduces number of symptomatic and severe COVID-19 infection cases.

10. Are these vaccines safe for children, pregnant and breastfeeding mother?

Clinical trials do not include children in the observation study thus safety profile in this age group can't be established. Malaysia COVID-19 vaccination program is offered only to those aged 18-year-old and above

For pregnant and breastfeeding mothers, government require pregnant and breastfeeding mother to consult with medical practitioners first before getting their vaccination shot.

11. Will mRNA-based vaccine alter my genetic/DNA structure?

No, mRNA vaccine will not alter your DNA component. Our body system will use this mRNA as a code to produce COVID-19 surface protein to initiate antibodies formation. This code reading process is carried out in cell bodies (cytoplasm). mRNA will not come in contact or react with our DNA that is securely stored in cell nucleus.

SECTION 2: Malaysia COVID-19 vaccination program

1. Do Malaysia have its own COVID-19 vaccination program?

Yes, we do. National program for COVID-19 immunisation is managed by JKJAV (Jawatankuasa Khas Jaminan Akses Bekalan Vaksin COVID-19), called **National COVID-19 Immunisation Programme (NIP)** with tagline '**Lindung Diri, Lindung Semua**'.

2. Malaysia has received its first shipment of vaccine. What vaccine is available now?

First shipment is from Pfizer-BioNTech company. The vaccine brand is COMIRNATY and it is an mRNA-based vaccine. This vaccine requires 2 doses of injection, 21 days apart. Malaysia has also received CORONAVAC vaccine, from SINOVAC on 27th February 2021. CORONAVAC contains inactivated virus and requires 2 doses, 14 days apart.

3. I'm interested to get the vaccine; how do I register?

Registration can be made through several method:

- i) MySejahtera application
- ii) <https://www.vaksincovid.gov.my/daftar/>
- iii) Registration at healthcare facilities (to be announced by government)
- iv) Hotline number (1800-888-828)
- v) Outreach program (for remote and rural areas only)

4. After registration, when can I expect to receive my vaccination?

Malaysia vaccine delivery strategy is divided into 3 main phases. Phase 1 (February to April 2021) is for frontliners comprising of public and private healthcare, essential services, defense, and security personnel. Phase 2 (April to August 2021) is for remainder of healthcare workers as well as those in essential services and defense and security personnel, people with high risk medical condition such as diabetes, obesity, people with disabilities and those aged 60 years and above. Phase 3 (May 2021 to February 2022) is for the rest of adult population, priority given to red zones, subsequently to yellow zones and then green zones.

So, you may expect to receive the vaccination dose as early as May 2021 or earlier if you're eligible for Phase 2 vaccine rollout.

5. Can we be part of early batch of vaccination group?

We shall adhere to the government's vaccine delivery strategy as per NIP.

6. Can I choose the type or brand of the vaccine?

No, you may not choose type of vaccine.

However, rest assured that only vaccines that has obtained National Pharmaceutical Regulatory Agency (NPRA) approval will be offered. Vaccines must be proven to be safe and effective with good quality control before approval by NPRA is awarded.

7. Do children with age less than 12 years old eligible for COVID-19 vaccination?

No. NIP has set the eligibility of COVID-19 vaccine is only for people aged 18 and above only.

8. Can I take different types of vaccine between the first and the second dose?

No, for both doses, it must be from the same vaccine as each vaccine has different mechanism of action.

9. If I develop complications from the vaccination, will I be compensated by the government?

Those who experience serious side effects after receiving the COVID-19 vaccination will be given ex-gratia payments under a government compensation scheme.

As to date, the government has yet to disclose specific details such as the amount of payment or details of the side effects but added they will be announced soon.

9. If my flight is delayed and/or I'm stranded offshore, can I take the 2nd dose at later date?

Yes, it is possible, but you are required to inform and discuss this with your vaccine provider.

10. Do I still need to adhere to government's SOP after being vaccinated?

Yes. The study is ongoing to determine duration of protection and level of immunity after being vaccinated. Therefore, you shall continue practice the SOP. This include wearing the face mask, physical distancing, frequent hand washing and cough / sneeze etiquette.

11. Where can I get more information about Malaysia National COVID-19 Immunisation program?

You may visit www.vaksincovid.gov.my for more details of the program.

SECTION 3: Immunisation program for PETRONAS employees

1. What is PETRONAS stand in COVID-19 vaccination for staff?

It is highly recommended for PETRONAS staff to get themselves vaccinated.

2. If PETRONAS staff have been identified to take this vaccine, can we say NO?

Vaccination administration is as per voluntary basis and PETRONAS staff is highly recommended to take up the vaccination especially where medical support is limited (e.g. offshore/remote operations/LNG ships).

3. What is the procedure or proof that staff need to submit if the staff cannot take the vaccine due to health issue (e.g. cancer survivors, allergy, etc.)

Under NIP, people will be screened by health professional at vaccination center if they are not suitable for vaccination (contraindicated for vaccination). The screening and the consent form will serve as documentation at site.

4. Do PETRONAS provides own immunisation program for its employees?

PETRONAS do not provide any COVID-19 immunisation program to its employees at the moment. However, discussion in ongoing with authorities to make this possible.

5. I prefer to join PETRONAS immunisation program if it's available later. Do I still need to register myself into Malaysia COVID-19 immunisation program?

Yes, do register yourself into Malaysia Immunisation program now to avoid any delay in getting the vaccine. Plus, there's no guarantee that government will allow PETRONAS to organize its own COVID-19 immunisation programme.

6. Can the vaccination be prioritized for our frontline personnel working at remote areas i.e. Paloch Field, South Sudan?

Government is planning to provide vaccination to certain critical groups, i.e students and essential business travelers. Kindly be advised to follow the updates by JKJAV on the provision under Phase 3 NIP.

7. Who is the priority group? I have heard it will be based on the Critical Business Function and few other criteria. Will announcement be made regarding the final priority group agreed by PETRONAS?

At the moment, we are still bound by NIP. However, company will continue discussing with the government authorities and appropriate communication will be made if any agreement is reached with the authorities.

8. Is there a different approach to how PETRONAS will manage the priority of staff getting the vaccination?

At the moment, we are still bound by NIP. However, company will continue discussing with the government authorities and appropriate communication will be made if any agreement is reached with the authorities.

9. Do country health authority and PPRT requirements still apply after I'm vaccinated?

Yes. You are still required to comply to requirement by Country Health Authority and PPRT until further instruction.

SECTION 4: HR related matters

1. Does PETRONAS AIA insurance cover such vaccine?

For Malaysia operations, vaccine administered through NIP will be free of charge. However, in the event the vaccine is administered via private services, it will be covered under company's medical provision.

For International operations, please consult your respective country's HR for the medical provision.

2. Can I receive my vaccine injection at selected private clinic/hospital? What are the criteria for a private clinic/hospital to be a vaccine panel?

Centre for vaccine administration will be decided by NIP according to the information provided during registration process.

3. Are we including our spouse & dependent eligible of COVID-19 vaccination?

All Malaysians above the age of 18 are eligible as per NIP.

4. Who will be responsible if there is side effect and death? Is insurance for COVID-19 vaccine death/hospitalization claimable?

Side effects and deaths are rare and as of today, there have not been any documented cases that is directly related to COVID-19 vaccination. However, if there are any case, all employees are covered under Group Term Takaful.

5. I have read on the possible side effects of these vaccines. Will PETRONAS compensate affected staff should there are claims on this?

No, there will be no compensation given to affected staff. However, treatment following complications/side effects will be covered as per existing individual's medical coverage.

6. What is the recommended way-forward for those who cannot be vaccinated due to health concerns? Will they be WFH indefinitely?

They are required to maintain strict COVID-19 hygiene practice and control measures. PETRONAS is currently monitoring the situation before deciding on the working arrangement for unvaccinated staffs, depending on authorities WHO/government of the country's decision.

7. Do PETRONAS plan to make COVID-19 compulsory? Will it be to extend that unvaccinated employee/visitor not to be allowed to enter facility or anything as such?

It is possible depends on the Covid-19 pandemic situation and the risk of exposure to staffs and impact to business continuity.

8. Are we required to inform the company after we've received our vaccination from NIP?

Yes, PETRONAS will provide directive on the process.

Supply of COVID-19 vaccine that has been acquired by Malaysia






| Vaccine |  |  (Including COVAX Facility purchases) |  sinovac* |  康希诺生物 CanSinoBIO |  Sputnik V |
|--------------------------------------|---|---|---|--|--|
| Type of Vaccines | mRNA | Viral vector | Inactivated virus | Viral vector | Viral vector |
| Manufacturer's Country | The United States of America | United Kingdom | China | China | Russia |
| Number of doses | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 2 |
| Efficacy (%) | 95 | 62- 90 | 50.4 -91.25 | 65.7 | 91.6 |
| Storage Temperature | -75°C | 2-8°C | 2-8°C | 2-8°C | -20°C |
| Number of doses (Million) | 32 | 12.8 | 12 | 3.5 | 6.4 |
| % of Populations | 50% | 20% | 18.75% | 10.9% | 10% |
| Countries that have used the vaccine | United States of America, Singapore, UK, Bahrain, Canada, Mexico, Switzerland, the European Union | UK, South Africa, Ukraine, Brazil, the European Union, Canada, India | China, Indonesia, Turkey, Chile, Hong Kong, Brazil, Cambodia | China; Mexico; Pakistan | Russia, Argentina, Brazil, South Korea, Belarus |

Table 1

Source: Jawatankuasa Khas Jaminan Akses Bekalan Vaksin COVID-19 (JKJAV), *National COVID-19 Immunisation Programme Handbook*

Disclaimer: These FAQs are meant to provide helpful information and is based on information deemed accurate as of 10th March 2021. Such FAQs may also be subjected to amendments from time to time. Further Information on the National COVID-19 Immunisation Programme can also be obtained at the official website <http://vaksinCovid.gov.my>.

