

## **Annex C – Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Vaccination Exercise**

#### **1. In total, how many children will be offered the vaccine?**

Vaccination will be progressively offered to over 300,000 children aged 5 to 11, starting with the older children from 27 December. The programme will be open to all Singapore Citizens, Permanent Residents, and long-term pass holders.

Parents/ guardians of students studying in MOE primary schools and Madrasahs will receive a unique link via SMS to book an appointment while parents/ guardians of other students can register their interest at [child.vaccine.gov.sg](http://child.vaccine.gov.sg). It can also be accessed via the main MOH vaccination registration website at [vaccine.gov.sg](http://vaccine.gov.sg).

#### **2. Where can children aged 5 to 11 get vaccinated? Are there plans to expand more of such paediatric vaccination centres island-wide?**

To facilitate the vaccination of younger children, 15 designated paediatric vaccination centres will be progressively set up island-wide. The list of vaccination centres could be found on [vaccine.gov.sg](http://vaccine.gov.sg).

We have assessed that overall, these 15 paediatric VCs would provide sufficient capacity to meet the expected demand in an efficient manner, but we will closely monitor the demand and booking patterns and will be prepared to make adjustments along the way.

#### **3. What should parents/guardians bring or take note of when bringing their child/ward for vaccination?**

Parents/guardians should bring their child/ward's student ID, or if not available, other forms of identification (e.g. Passport, Birth Certificate) during the vaccination appointment for verification purposes.

In addition, for parents/guardians who have registered through the National Appointment System (NAS) at [child.vaccine.gov.sg](http://child.vaccine.gov.sg) are also required to sign the consent form and bring along the hardcopy or softcopy to the vaccination centre for verification. The consent form can be found on the NAS.

Children aged 12 and below will need to be accompanied by a parent/guardian. For children who are accompanied by adults other than child's parent/guardian, they will need to produce a parental authorisation form which can be downloaded when booking the vaccination appointment.

Prior to vaccination, parents should ensure that their child is hydrated, has eaten and avoids strenuous exercise. Children are encouraged to wear short-sleeved or loose clothes for their vaccination appointment.

#### **4. When can I expect to get the SMS invitation? Who will get the invitation? What if I did not get it?**

From 22 December 2021 (Wednesday), parents/guardians of Primary 4 to 6 students (in 2022) in MOE primary schools and Madrasahs can expect to progressively receive an SMS invitation with a unique link to book a vaccination appointment.

From the week of 3 January 2022, parents/guardians of Primary 1 to 3 students (in 2022) in MOE primary schools and Madrasahs can expect to progressively receive an SMS invitation with a unique link to book a vaccination appointment.

Parents/guardians of children in MOE primary schools and Madrasahs who did not receive the SMS invite with the unique link, or who have experienced technical difficulties with the unique link, should proceed to register your child/ward on the National Appointment System (NAS) when this opens up for the age band of your child, i.e. from 27 Dec 2021 for those born in 2009 to 2012, and from the week of 10 Jan 2022 for those who are 5 and above. MOE and ECDA will announce the confirmed date for the opening of this final phase of registration in early January 2022.

Parents/guardians can register their interest for their child/ward on the NAS at [child.vaccine.gov.sg](http://child.vaccine.gov.sg) and should expect to receive their SMS invitation within 3 to 5 working days.

If you do not receive your invitation after 5 working days, please call the MOH hotline at 1800-333-9999 or resubmit your registration on the NAS.

For children attending SPED schools and EIPIIC centres, SPED schools and EIPIIC Centres will share the registration instructions and guidelines with their parents/guardians separately.

#### **5. Why are children aged 9 to 11 prioritised for vaccination? Why is MOH/MOE/ECDA prioritising vaccination for older children aged 9 to 11 before opening up to the younger age groups?**

This vaccination exercise will cover over 300,000 children. We will need to take extra care in the initial period to run in the operations and gradually ramp up the capacity. MOH will also need to ensure that there are sufficient medical personnel trained in paediatric care and with staff who are experienced in administering vaccination for these younger children. The community VCs also have to cater enough space for the accompanying parent/guardian of the child, while still providing space for the on-going vaccination booster programme which is also being accelerated.

Hence, we will have to stagger the paediatric vaccination exercise and have different tranches being invited to book their appointments, starting with the older school-going children as we hope to allow them to be able to have more larger group activities and CCAs and competitive sports for them in the near future.

However, we would like to assure all parents that it is a matter of just a few weeks when we eventually open up the registration to all who are 5 and above from the week of 10 January 2022.

**6. Within the age bands, why is registration open to children from MOE primary schools and Madrasahs first, followed by others like those in PEI and who are home-schooled?**

**Why do parents of students from Private Education Institutions, ECDA-licensed preschools and MOE Kindergartens (MK) have to register for interest instead of receiving an SMS to sign up directly?**

To ensure that vaccination can be offered to children aged 5 to 11 in the most efficient manner, we are adopting a two-pronged approach to allow parents/guardians to sign up for vaccination of their child/ward.

Students enrolled in MOE primary schools and Madrasahs will receive an SMS with a unique link. This is because the updated contact details of parents/guardians of children aged 7-11 years old enrolled in MOE primary schools and Madrasahs are readily available. This would cover the majority of children aged 7 to 11 years old. We have also observed that parents of school-going children in the earlier MOE vaccination exercise in middle of 2021 appreciated the ease and simplicity of being given this SMS with unique link to quickly book their vaccination appointments, and we are therefore adopting this same approach for this coming 5-11 vaccination exercise for the primary school-going group.

Parents/guardians of children aged 5 to 11 years old who are not enrolled in MOE primary schools or Madrasahs (e.g. Private Education Institutions, ECDA-licensed preschools, MOE kindergartens, as well as those who are home-schooled or not currently in any school), would follow a two-step process. They would first register their interest at the NAS ([child.vaccine.gov.sg](http://child.vaccine.gov.sg)) and provide the requisite details. After registration, parents/guardians can expect to receive a unique link via SMS within 3 to 5 working days. This process is broadly similar to how parents have registered for their own vaccination earlier in the exercise.

**7. If a household has a few children of different ages (e.g. a 5- and 7-year-old), will their appointment dates be the same? If they are from the same household, can their appointments be on the same date, so that parents need not take leave from work twice?**

The vaccination exercise will progressively open to all eligible children by age bands, starting with children born between 2009 to 2012 in tranches from 22 Dec 2021, before eventually opening up to all who are aged 5 and above from the week of 10 January 2022.

As we aim to optimise the vaccination capacity at each paediatric vaccination centre through the booking system, we would advise all parents to observe the timings for the opening of the various tranches and age bands for booking of an appointment and to turn up based on the appointment dates and timing. This is especially important for the initial phase of this paediatric vaccination exercise. This would make it more manageable for the vaccination centre staff and also ensure a more pleasant experience for all who are scheduled for their vaccination.

## **Safe Management Measures**

### **8. Will Safe Management Measures (SMMs) in preschools/MKs/schools 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 as no vaccines are 100 per cent effective.

To continue to keep our preschools, MKs and schools safe, we expect that we would need to retain some SMMs in our schools even after the vaccination exercise is completed, but there would certainly be greater scope for us to calibrate some of these SMMs to allow a wider range of school/student activities, taking into account the prevailing national posture.