

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS
COVID-19 VACCINATION EXERCISE FOR STUDENTS
IN SCHOOLS AND INSTITUTES OF HIGHER LEARNING

1. How do we know that the vaccine is safe for children? What are the possible side effects?

The Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine is currently the only COVID-19 vaccine that has been authorised for use in adolescents aged 12 to 18 years in Singapore. HSA and the Expert Committee had reviewed the safety and efficacy of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine based on the clinical trials for individuals in this age group.

The safety profile of the Pfizer vaccine in the younger population is consistent with the known safety profile in the adult population. The side effects include injection site pain, fatigue, headache, chills and fever, which generally resolved on their own within a few days.

You can find out more from the HSA Website:

<https://www.hsa.gov.sg/announcements/press-release/hsa-extends-the-use-of-pfizer-biontech-covid-19-vaccine-to-adolescents-of-ages-12-to-15>.

2. 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. We encourage students to make a vaccination appointment as early as possible upon receiving their SMS notification.

3. 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.

4. Will parents be allowed to accompany their child to the vaccination centres?

Parents are to accompany their child to the vaccination centre if they are below 13 years old. While parents are not required to accompany older children who are 13 and above to the vaccination centre, should they wish to do so, they will be ushered to a family waiting area outside the vaccination room, to avoid congestion and ensure compliance to Safe Management Measures at the vaccination centres.

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

SMSes will be sent progressively to eligible students (if they are aged 18 and above) or their parents (if their child is below 18 years old). Parents of students in the O, N and A levels (or equivalent) cohorts who have yet to receive the SMS by 3 June should contact your child/ward's school for assistance. Parents of students in other cohorts will progressively receive the SMSes. Schools will also be reaching out to parents of students in mainstream primary and secondary schools separately with additional details on their vaccinations.

In general, students who are in schools and the IHLs should receive their SMSes by the end of the second week of June.

For AU, polytechnic and Arts Institution 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 guardians. Students who have yet to receive a SMS by the dates stipulated by their institutions should inform their designated point-of-contacts in their institutions quickly for assistance.

For ITE students, ITE will make arrangements directly for them to have their vaccination on campus.

6. 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.

7. What happens if students' vaccination appointment clashes with their upcoming oral national examinations?

MOE would like to assure parents and students that if students' upcoming oral national examination schedules clash with their appointment date for the first or second dose of their vaccination, changes to their oral examination dates within the oral examination window can be accommodated where possible, or else new appointment dates for the vaccination can also be scheduled.

Special Consideration may be applicable if rescheduling is not possible. Parents/students should provide evidence of the vaccination appointment to facilitate this.