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PFIZER COVID VACCINE (Interim Guidelines)

Objective

To provide guidelines for administration of Pfizer Vaccine storage, handling, administration and safe disposal along with recommendations for vaccine recipients including immunocompromised individuals and additional dose(s) for international travelers.

Context

Some countries ask for evidence of vaccination with specific type of mRNA vaccine(s) which may be different from the vaccine administered to an individual in Pakistan. The administration of additional dose (s) of Pfizer BioNTech (mRNA Covid-19 vaccine) is therefore being allowed, to enable international travel to individuals for whom it is a mandatory requirement based on their intended destination.

In addition, individuals who are immunocompromised, 12 years of age and above are also being approved for administration of Pfizer BioNTech vaccination subject to provision of necessary Medical documents of proof.

Eligibility

- **General Public – Expansion of Age Group to 17 and Above**

- General public age **group for vaccination is being lowered to 17 years and above.**
- **Only Pfizer vaccine will be administered to age group 17 to 18 years.**
- Child Registration Certificate (B- Form) number will be used for registration in NIMS
- **18+ years plus.** Pfizer can be administered as any other vaccine to unvaccinated individuals.
- Vaccination Certificate can be obtained as per existing procedure through NADRA with entry of added dose(s) to it.

- **Immunocompromised (unvaccinated)**

- Unvaccinated immunocompromised individuals of 12 years and above will be vaccinated with Pfizer vaccine **ONLY** (free of cost).
- Individuals will be required to produce medical documents as a proof of being immunocompromised



- **Eligibility Criteria of Vaccination for Travelers**

- **12-17 years** - On payment - passport/ travel documents to be checked.
- 18 years and above: On payment, additional dose of Pfizer can be administered to vaccinated after showing valid documents.
- Additional dose/s of vaccine will be administered at individual's risk; in case of children below 18 years of age, at parent's / guardian's risk.

Miscellaneous Instructions

- ***NOTE: The Interval from last known dose received by the individual MUST be at least 28 days; and the 2nd additional dose (if required) is to be administered 28 days after the first additional dose for any type of vaccine administered earlier***
- ***Disclaimer: At the time of this notification, the WHO does NOT recommend booster dose or vaccine mix and match due to limited availability of data. Accordingly, the additional dose / Booster dose to international travelers will be administered only on request.***
- A maximum of 2 types of vaccine can be administered to an individual as necessitated by the requirements of the country of destination. Based on currently available information, do not administer a third type of vaccine even upon request
- People having record of moderate to severe AEFI will not be administered additional dose of the same vaccine
- Alien, Non CNIC holders should not be given additional doses without NIMS record.
- Individuals having high grade fever at the time of reporting for vaccination should be rescheduled for vaccination after the illness has resolved.
- Those with mild COVID-19 can receive the vaccine after recovery and once their isolation period is complete.

Steps of Administration

1. Wear mask and observe COVID-19 SOPs
2. **Greet** the client
3. Check and keep record of NBP **payment challan**.
4. Complete **verification** process in the NIMS
5. Ensure **consent** by stating “that you are receiving this COVID-19 vaccine because you have registered yourself into the system and you have travelling requirement”
6. Expose site (**deltoid** of non-dominant arm) for administration
7. **Explain the procedure and inform** that some pain on giving injection, discomfort at the site of injection or fever after the injection may happen
8. Swab the injection site with an alcohol swab for **30 seconds**, then let the area dry for another 30 seconds so that the alcohol doesn't enter the puncture and sting
9. Take vaccine vial out of the vaccine carrier



10. Cleanse the stopper on the vial vaccine with a new, sterile alcohol prep pad.
11. Take out **22G-25G 0.5ml** syringe and remove needle cap
12. Discard the cap in safety box
13. Insert the syringe needle through the top rubber pad of vaccine vial
14. Draw **0.3 ml** of the vaccine from the vial
15. Remove air bubbles if any while the needle is still in the vial to avoid loss of vaccine.
16. Ensure final dosing volume of **0.5 ml** of vaccine.¹
17. Inject intra muscularly at the site of injection at an angle of 90° (right angle)
18. Dispose the syringe in the safety box
19. Complete entry in the **NIMS**
20. Send the client to observation area for **30 minutes**
21. After 30 minutes if no acute adverse event is experienced by the client, send the client home.
Also, advise the client to **report to health facility /1166 helpline** if any adverse event is experienced.

Vaccine Waste Management

- Used vials and syringes must be **collected safely** by the vaccinator
- **Syringes must be disposed through environment friendly incinerators** where available.
- In case of non-availability of incinerators, follow the under mentioned link for proper disposal of the vaccine waste.
https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/43476/9241594284_eng.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y
- The **vaccinator under supervision of the health facility in-charge** of the concerned health facility will ensure proper disposal of COVID-19 vaccination waste
- **Daily waste generation and disposal record** must be maintained by the vaccinator.

During vaccination, Do NOT

- Touch the rubber pad of vaccine vial (causes contamination and can result in an AEFI)
- Recap needle of syringes (to prevent needle stick injuries)
- Please refer to “Annexure A” checklist for covid-19 vaccine administration

¹ If the amount of vaccine remaining in the vial cannot provide a full 0.5 ml dose, discard the vial and contents. Do **NOT** combine vaccine from multiple vials to obtain a dose.



Annex-A

CHECKLIST FOR COVID-19 VACCINE ADMINISTRATION

Client Name:	Age:
ID Card:	Gender:
Address:	
NBP Chalan Form No.	
Staff name/Signatures	
1. Greet the Client	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Make sure that you and client are wearing face mask	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Complete the 2-step verification of client	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Ensure consent by stating that "you are receiving this COVID-19 vaccine because you registered yourself in the system and need additional dose as travel requirement"	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Prepare dose appropriate for age of the individual	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Explain the procedure and inform that some pain on giving injection, and discomfort or fever after the injection can occur	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Sterilize injection site with alcohol swab and wait till dry	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Administer injection	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. Properly dispose the injection waste	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. Send the client to observation section for 30 minutes	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. After 30 minutes, and with no acute AEFI, client is ready to be sent home.	<input type="checkbox"/>



Note: The above recommendations are being regularly reviewed by the Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations & Coordination and will be updated based on the international & national recommendations and best practices. The Ministry acknowledges the contribution of EPI Team and HSA/ HPSIU/ NIH team to compile these guidelines.

For more information, please contact:

HSA/ HPSIU/ NIH, PM National Health Complex, Islamabad

<http://covid.gov.pk/>

<http://nhsrsc.gov.pk/>

<https://www.facebook.com/NHSRCSOfficial>

<http://www.hsa.edu.pk/>

<https://twitter.com/nhsrcofficial>

<https://www.nih.org.pk/>

<https://www.youtube.com/NHSRC-PK>