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Guidelines

COVID-19 Vaccination PakVac Vaccine Guidelines

Objective

To provide guidelines for the PakVac vaccine storage, handling, administration and safe disposal along with recommendations for vaccine recipients.

Rationale

Vaccines are important part of strategies to curtail the devastating Covid-19 pandemic. PakVac vaccine needs special handling to maintain its effectiveness. Safe transportation, storage, administration, and disposal of vaccine waste must be ensured at all vaccination facilities.

Instructions

Vaccine Storage

- Storage and transportation in refrigerated (2-8°C) condition
- **Do not freeze the vaccine** in any circumstance
- **Protect the vaccine from direct exposure to sunlight**
- Punctured vial can be stored up to **6 hours** in refrigerated (2-8°C) condition. **Discard** the vial and contents if vaccine is not used within these times.

Who should receive the Vaccine

- Individuals who are **above 18 years of age**.
- Vaccination is recommended for persons with comorbidities that have been identified as increasing the risk of severe COVID-19, including obesity, cardiovascular disease, respiratory disease and diabetes.



Who should NOT receive Vaccine

- Pregnant and lactating women (according to manufacturer's recommendations)
- Individuals having **fever at the time of coming for vaccination** (Can be rescheduled after the illness is settled)
- Patients with **active COVID-19**
 - Those with mild COVID-19 can receive the vaccine once the isolation period complete.
 - Those with severe COVID-19 can receive the vaccine once they become stable
- Individuals on **short-term immunosuppressive medication** should wait for 28 day after the medication ends.
- Those **chronically immunosuppressed** may receive the vaccine, though efficacy may be lower
 - Those post-transplantation may receive the vaccine 3 months after transplantation
 - Those post-chemotherapy may receive the vaccine 28 days after chemotherapy
- Any history of asthma
- People with epilepsy, brain disease, and history of convulsions.

Vaccine Administration

- Route of Administration: **Intra-muscular**
- Site of Administration: **Lateral Deltoid Muscle (Upper Arm), Non-dominant side**
- Dose: **0.5ml**
- Presentation: **Multi dose vial (10 doses/vial)**
- Regimen: **Single shot**

Steps of Administration

1. Wear mask and observe COVID-19 SOPs
2. **Greet** the client
3. Complete **verification** process in the NIMS
4. Ensure **consent** by stating “that you are receiving this COVID-19 vaccine because you have registered yourself into the system”
5. Expose site (**deltoid** of non-dominant arm) for administration
6. **Explain the procedure and inform** that some pain on giving injection, discomfort at the site of injection or fever after the injection may happen
7. 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
8. Take vaccine vial out of the vaccine carrier
9. Cleanse the stopper on the vial vaccine with a new, sterile alcohol prep pad.
10. Take out **22G-25G 0.5ml** syringe and remove needle cap
11. Discard the cap in safety box
12. Insert the syringe needle through the top rubber pad of vaccine vial



13. Draw **0.5ml** of the vaccine from the vial
14. Remove air bubbles if any while the needle is still in the vial to avoid loss of vaccine.
15. Ensure final dosing volume of **0.5 ml** of vaccine.¹
16. Inject intra muscularly at the site of injection at an angle of 90° (right angle)
17. Dispose the syringe in the safety box
18. Complete entry in the **NIMS**
19. Send the client to observation area for **30 minutes**
20. 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.



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 Dr. Ifrah Javaid, EPI Team and HSA/ HPSIU/ NIH team to compile these guidelines.

References

1. <https://blog.wego.com/pakvac-pakistan/>
2. <https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT04526990?term=Ad5-nCov&draw=2>
3. <http://www.jscdc.cn/jkfw/kygz/202007/P020200720346693837711.pdf>
4. <https://www.nih.org.pk/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/20210406-Guidelines-for-Cansino-Bio-Vaccine-5901.pdf>

For more information, please contact:

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

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

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

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

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

<https://twitter.com/nhsrcofficial>

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

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



Annex-A

CHECKLIST FOR COVID-19 VACCINE ADMINISTRATION	
Client Name:	Age:
ID Card:	Gender:
Address:	
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"	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Prepare dose	<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	<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"/>
12. Respond to Qs if any, as the last step.	<input type="checkbox"/>