



MINISTRY OF HEALTH
SINGAPORE



MH 34:24/8

4 Aug 2021

Dear TCM practitioners

NATIONAL COVID-19 VACCINATION PROGRAMME

The Ministry of Health thanks you for your strong support during the COVID-19 pandemic, especially in referring your patients with flu-like symptoms to our PHPC and Swab-and-Send-Home (SASH) clinics. This has helped focus our efforts to better detect and manage COVID-19 infections, and has contributed to the safety of all Singaporeans.

2. As you are aware, Singapore has stepped up our vaccination efforts to reduce the number of people susceptible to infection and reduce the likelihood of severe disease. The COVID-19 Vaccines approved for use in Singapore are safe and have met WHO, HSA and the EC19V expert committee standards.
3. As of 1 Aug 2021, more than 7.64 million doses of the COVID-19 vaccine have been administered under the national vaccination programme. While the take-up rate has been encouraging, we need to improve our vaccination coverage amongst seniors aged 60 years and above. As highlighted in the letter from Minister for Health, Mr Ong Ye Kung to all TCMPs, the elderly are at higher risk of experiencing severe COVID-19 and developing complications if they are infected. Our data showed that infected but fully vaccinated persons are less likely to develop severe infection, require oxygen supplementation or ICU admission. The elderly remain particularly vulnerable to infection when the community incidence of COVID-19 is high.
4. We are pleased to note the majority of TCMPs had been vaccinated. If you have not already done so, we strongly encourage you to get vaccinated as this will enable you to serve your patients and the community better. As the first line of care in the community whom patients place their trust in, we would also like to seek your help to encourage your regular patients, especially those aged 60 and above, to receive the COVID-19 vaccination.



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5. You may do so by:

- i) Checking on the vaccination status of your patients when they present for a consultation at your TCM clinic and encouraging them to book a vaccination appointment if they had not done so before;
- ii) Persuading them to visit a Vaccination Centre or Mobile Vaccination Team (MVT) if they are aged above 60 years, since seniors do not need a booking to receive the first dose of COVID-19 vaccination; and
- iii) If your patient is unable to leave his/her home to travel to a Vaccination Centre or MVT to receive vaccination, arranging a home vaccination team to visit them by contacting the Silver Generation Office at 1800-650-6060;

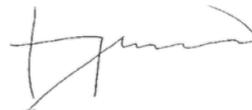
6. You are likely to encounter many reasons why they are reluctant to receive vaccinations. Many are afraid of side-effects, especially if they have underlying illnesses. But these make them even more vulnerable to COVID-19 infections and increase their need for vaccination. Others may think that they do not go out often and hence are safe, but majority of COVID-19 infections happen at home.

7. Please explain the need for vaccination to them. Examples are as attached in Annex A. More information and resources are available at <https://www.gov.sg/article/2021/covid-19-vaccination-infographics>. Once again, thank you very much for your ongoing contributions and support as we partner in the fight against COVID-19.

Yours sincerely



Professor Lim Shih Hui
Head
Traditional & Complementary Medicine
Ministry of Health



Mrs Yu-Foo Yee Shoon
Chairman
TCM Practitioners Board



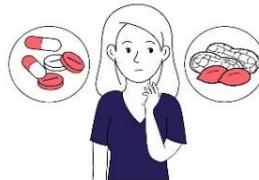
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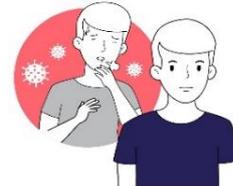
Persons with the following conditions CAN now take the mRNA vaccines:



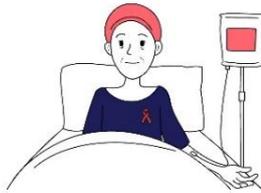
History of Severe Cutaneous Adverse Reactions (SCAR)
e.g. Stevens-Johnson Syndrome, Toxic Epidermal Necrolysis



History of anaphylaxis or severe allergic reactions to drugs, food and insect bites



Prior COVID-19 infection more than 6 months ago



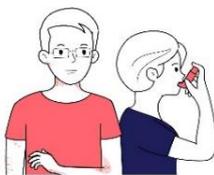
Undergoing active cancer treatment
e.g. chemotherapy, immunotherapy or radiation therapy



Pregnant or breastfeeding



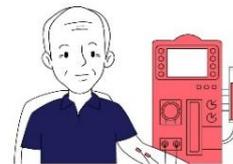
Chronic conditions
e.g. hypertension, diabetes, high cholesterol, heart disease



Have eczema or asthma



Taking TCM



Undergoing kidney dialysis

Speak to your doctor about COVID-19 vaccination if you are unsure.

See a doctor early if unwell, even if vaccinated or with mild symptoms.



For more info:
vaccine.gov.sg or 1800-333-9999



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尊敬的中医师

全国 COVID-19 疫苗接种计划

卫生部感谢您在 2019 冠状病毒疾病 (COVID-19) 大流行期间给予的大力支持，尤其将患有流感症状的病人转介到公共卫生防范诊所 (PHPC) 和 Swab-And-Send-Home (SASH) 诊所。这有助于我们集中精力，以更好地检测和管理 COVID-19 感染，并对所有国人的安全作出贡献。

2. 如您所知，新加坡已加强疫苗接种工作，以便减少易受感染的人数，和降低患上严重疾病的机率。获准在新加坡使用的 COVID-19 疫苗是安全的，并符合世界卫生组织、卫生科学局和 EC19V 专家委员会的标准。

3. 截至 2021 年 8 月 1 日，我们已在全国疫苗接种计划下施射了超过 764 万剂 COVID-19 疫苗。虽然接种率令人鼓舞，但我们仍需要提高 60 岁及以上年长者的疫苗接种率。正如卫生部长王乙康先生致函所有中医师的信中所强调，年长者如果感染 COVID-19，患上严重疾病及并发症的风险会更高。我们的统计数据显示，受感染但已完成疫苗接种的人士出现严重感染、需要氧气补充或入住加护病房的机率较低。当 COVID-19 的社区传播率高的时候，年长者仍然尤其容易受到感染。

4. 我们很高兴知道大多数的中医师已接种 COVID-19 疫苗。如果您还没有接种疫苗，我们强烈鼓励您尽快接种疫苗，以便能更好地为您的病人和社区服务。作为社区里受病人信任的前线医护人员，我们也希望您能协助鼓励定期到您的中医诊所就诊的病人，尤其是 60 岁以上的人士，考虑接种疫苗。

5. 您可以通过以下方式：

- i) 当病人到您的中医诊所求诊时，请询问他们的疫苗接种情况。如果他们尚未接种疫苗，请鼓励他们预约接种疫苗；



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- ii) 如果是 60 岁以上的年长者，劝请他们到疫苗接种中心或流动疫苗接种小组（MVT），因为年长者无需预约就能接受第一剂疫苗的接种；以及
- iii) 如果病人无法离开住家前往疫苗接种中心或到 MVT 接种疫苗，可拨电 1800-650 6060 联络关爱乐龄办事处，安排流动疫苗接种队上门进行疫苗接种。

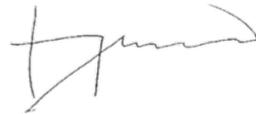
6. 您或许会听闻病人不愿意接受疫苗接种的种种原因。许多人担心疫苗可能产生的副作用，尤其是如果他们患有潜在的疾病。但是，这也是他们更应该接受疫苗接种的理由，因为这些病人更容易感染 COVID-19 病毒。其他人可能会认为他们不经常外出，因此比较安全。但是，大多数 COVID-19 病毒感染者是在家里感染的。

7. 请向您的病人解释接种疫苗的必要性，其例子附在附件 A 中。欲获更多 COVID-19 疫苗接种的详情和资料，请浏览 <https://www.gov.sg/article/2021/covid-19-vaccination-infographics>。再次感谢您，在与我们携手对抗 COVID-19 的过程中所作出的持续贡献和支持。

此致 敬礼



卫生部传统与辅助医疗 主任
林詩暉教授



中医管理委员会 主席
符喜泉女士



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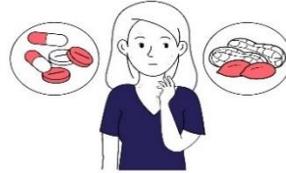
VACCINATION^{SG}



以下人士 如今可以接种信使核糖核酸 (mRNA)疫苗:



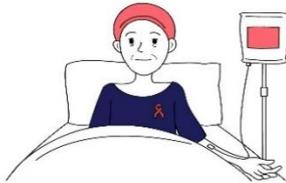
**有严重皮肤不良反应
(SCAR)病史的人**
如史蒂文斯-约翰逊综合征(SJS)、
中毒性表皮坏死松懈症(TEN)



**曾对药物、食物和虫咬
有过敏性休克反应
或严重过敏反应的人**



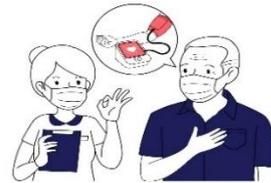
**在超过六个月前
曾感染冠病的人**



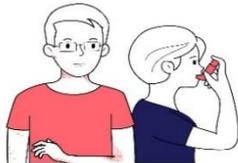
**正在接受
癌症治疗的人**
如化疗、免疫疗法或放射治疗



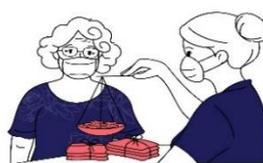
孕妇或哺乳妇女



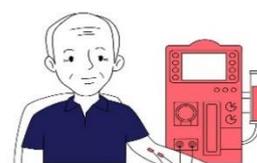
慢性疾病患者
如患有高血压、糖尿病、
高胆固醇、心脏病等



哮喘或湿疹患者



正在服用中药的人



洗肾者

如果您对接种冠病疫苗仍有疑虑, 请征询医生的意见。

**如果您身体不适, 即使已接种疫苗或仅出现轻微症状,
也请尽早看医生。**



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或拨电 1800-333-9999

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