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भारत सरकार  
स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय  
निर्माण भवन, नई दिल्ली - 110011

**Government of India**  
**Ministry of Health & Family Welfare**  
**Nirman Bhavan, New Delhi - 110011**  
**D.O. No. 2072903/2021/Imm**

**27<sup>th</sup> January 2022**

*Dear Colleague,*

This is in reference to the clarification sought regarding age eligibility for Covid-19 vaccination for the 15-18 age group. In this regard, various earlier communications made by MoHFW to States/ UTs in the form of letters & guidelines may please be referred to.

D.O. letter No. 1920764/2020-IMM. Dated 23.04.2021 guidance was issued wherein the eligibility criteria for 18 + age group was communicated which provided that all those who are 18 old as on 01.01.2022 are eligible for vaccination under this age category.

The guidelines for COVID-19 Vaccination of children between 15-18 years were issued by the Ministry on 27/12/2021 and 28/12/2021 wherein it was specified that, all those whose year of birth is 2007 or before, shall be eligible. This translates into – those attaining the age of 15 years as on 01.01.2023, are eligible.

In the FAQs hosted on the Co-WIN website, the relevant provisions have also been explained for citizens wherein it has been clarified that those born in the years 2005, 2006 and 2007 are eligible in 15-18 years' category.

The training and orientation sessions organized for States/ UTs for dissemination of these guidelines and instructions may also be referred. The copies of above letters and guidelines are also enclosed herewith.

In view of this, age eligibility criteria for COVID-19 Vaccination is again reiterated in below mentioned table for clarity :

Sr No	Age Group	Eligibility Criteria
1	15-18 Yr	All those beneficiaries born in year 2005,2006 & 2007 i.e. <i>those who have already attained or would be attaining the age of 15 year as on 01.01.2023</i>
2	18 Yr & Above	All those beneficiaries born in year 2004 or earlier years i.e. <i>those who have already attained or would be attaining the age of 18 year as on 01.01.2023</i>
3	60 Yr & Above	All those beneficiaries born in year 1962 or earlier years i.e. <i>those who have already attained or would be attaining the age of 60 year as on 01.01.2023</i>

Contd.

**स्वच्छ भारत - स्वस्थ भारत**



भारत सरकार  
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स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय

Government of India  
Department of Health and Family Welfare  
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

D.O No. 2467806/2021/Imm  
28<sup>th</sup> December 2021

राजेश भूषण, आईएएस  
सचिव

**RAJESH BHUSHAN, IAS**  
SECRETARY

*Dear Colleague,*

The National COVID-19 Vaccination Drive of India, the largest of its kind in the world, has successfully covered around 90% of the eligible beneficiaries with at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine while more than 62% of the eligible beneficiaries have been fully vaccinated. More than 142 crore doses of COVID-19 vaccine have been administered to cover these beneficiaries and this mammoth task has been achieved in shortest possible time, through proactive support of States/UTs.

2. National COVID-19 Vaccination Drive has continuously been guided by scientific evidence and global best practices. Keeping in view the recent global surge of COVID-19 cases, detection of Omicron variant which has been categorized as a Variant of Concern (VOC), scientific evidence, global best practices and the inputs/suggestions of "COVID-19 Working Group" of "National Technical Advisory Group on Immunization (NTAGI)" as well as of "Standing Technical Scientific Committee (STSC)" of NTAGI it has now been decided to further refine the scientific prioritization & coverage of COVID-19 vaccination as follows:

- a) COVID-19 Vaccination of children in the age-group of 15-18 years to be started from 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2022. For such beneficiaries, option for vaccination would only be available for Covaxin as this is the only vaccine with EUL for the age-group 15-18.
- b) As a matter of abundant precaution, for those Health Care Workers & Front Line Workers who have received two doses, another dose of COVID-19 vaccine would be provided from 10<sup>th</sup> January 2022. The prioritization and sequencing of this precaution dose would be based on the completion of 9 months i.e. 39 weeks from the date of administration of 2<sup>nd</sup> dose.
- c) All persons aged 60 years and above with comorbidities who have received two doses of COVID-19 vaccine, will on Doctor's advice be provided with a precaution dose from 10<sup>th</sup> January 2022. The prioritization and sequencing of this precaution dose would be based on the completion of 9 months i.e. 39 weeks from the date of administration of second dose.

3. All persons aged 60 years & above with co-morbidities will not be required to produce/submit any certificate from doctor, at the time of administration of precaution dose. Such persons are expected to obtain the advice of their doctor before deciding to avail of the precaution dose.

4. All citizens irrespective of their income status are entitled to free COVID-19 vaccination at Govt. Vaccination Centres. Those who have the ability to pay are encouraged to use Private Hospitals' Vaccination Centres. The previously declared price for each vaccine at Private CVCs will remain applicable for these group of beneficiaries.

.....contd/-



5. Following features and provisions will be available on Co-WIN to facilitate the vaccination of aforementioned beneficiaries:

**a. HCWs, FLWs and Citizens 60+:**

- All HCWs, FLWs and citizens aged 60 years or above with comorbidities will be able to access the vaccination for precaution dose through their existing Co-WIN account.
- Personnel to be deployed in Election Duty in poll-bound States will also be included in the category of FLWs.
- Eligibility of such beneficiaries for the precaution dose will be based on the date of administration of 2<sup>nd</sup> dose as recorded in the Co-WIN system (completion of 9 months i.e. 39 weeks from the date of administration of second dose).
- All such HCWs and FLWs who are for any reason presently registered on the Co-WIN system as citizens and are aged less than 60 years, will have to get their status appropriately assigned to HCW/FLW to avail the precaution dose. However, in order to do so they must produce the employment certificate in prescribed format. This facility will only be available at Government Vaccination Centers in on-site mode. This can be availed at the time of administration of the precaution dose at Govt. Vaccination Centers.
- Co-WIN system will send SMS to such beneficiaries for availing the precaution dose when the dose becomes due.
- Registration and appointment services can be accessed through both, the online and the onsite ("Walk-in") modes.
- The details of administration of the precaution dose will be suitably reflected in the digital vaccination certificates generated from Co-WIN.

**b. New beneficiaries aged 15-18 years:**

- All those aged 15 years or more will be able to register on Co-WIN. In other words, all those whose birth year is 2007 or before, shall be eligible.
- Beneficiaries can self-register, online through an existing account on Co-WIN or can also register by creating a new account through a unique mobile number, since this facility is presently available for citizens. Such online registration would become available from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2022.
- Such beneficiaries can also be registered onsite ("Walk-in") by the verifier/vaccinator in facilitated registration mode.
- Appointments can be booked online or onsite (walk-in). Services in the on-site (walk-in) mode will be available subject to availability of vaccination slots. It is advised that beneficiaries should ascertain availability of slots for the vaccination center of their choice on Co-WIN.
- District officials should identify dedicated session sites (i.e. earmarked COVID-19 Vaccination Centers) for vaccination of 15-18 years' age-group. It must be ensured that no mixing of vaccine is done, hence, preferably separate session site (COVID-19 Vaccination Centers) should be identified. Separate queue with proper and prominent signages and separate vaccination team must be used, if the identified session site is same where adult vaccination is also ongoing. States / UTs must also publicize adequately in advance the details of Session Sites where COVID Vaccination for 15 – 18 age group would be available.

- For such beneficiaries, option for vaccination would only be "Covaxin" as this is the only vaccine with EUL for the age-group 15-18 years & necessary recommendation of "COVID-19 Working Group" of NTAGI.
6. These guidelines will come into effect from 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2022 & will be reviewed from time to time.
7. In the poll-bound States, there is possibility of increased instances of crowding, hence, next week and fortnight is crucial in these States to maximize the vaccination coverage. These States must review the implementation of their district-wise vaccination plans on a daily basis to ensure that the speed & coverage of COVID-19 vaccination is enhanced significantly.
8. The State/UT-wise projected number of 15-18 years' age-group provided by Registrar General of India (RGI) is annexed (Annex. 1). The State/UT-wise projected number of co-morbid persons in 60+ age-group is also annexed (Annex.2).
9. I request you to kindly direct the concerned officials to initiate planning for vaccination of aforementioned beneficiaries at earliest. It must also be ensured that due focus on full vaccination of all eligible beneficiaries is sustained while rolling out precaution dose and vaccination of 15-18 years' age-group.

*Harm Legards .*

Yours sincerely,

(Rajesh Bhushan)

Encl : as above

**Chief Secretary / Administrator**  
All States/UTs

Copy to: Additional Chief Secretary, Principal Secretary / Secretary (Health)  
All States/UTs



**State/UT-wise projected number of 15 to 18 years' age group**

<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>State/UT</b>	<b>Projected population aged 15-&lt;18 years*</b>
1	A&N Islands	23,000
2	Andhra Pradesh	24,41,000
3	Arunachal Pradesh	98,000
4	Assam	20,37,000
5	Bihar	83,46,000
6	Chandigarh	72,000
7	Chhattisgarh	16,35,000
8	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	34,000
9	Daman and Diu	25,000
10	Delhi	10,14,000
11	Goa	74,000
12	Gujarat	35,58,000
13	Haryana	15,40,000
14	Himachal Pradesh	3,52,000
15	Jammu and Kashmir	8,33,000
16	Jharkhand	23,98,000
17	Karnataka	31,75,000
18	Kerala	15,34,000
19	Ladakh	13,000
20	Lakshadweep	5,000
21	Madhya Pradesh	48,00,000
22	Maharashtra	60,63,000
23	Manipur	1,74,000
24	Meghalaya	2,05,000
25	Mizoram	67,000
26	Nagaland	1,43,000
27	Odisha	23,65,000
28	Puducherry	83,000
29	Punjab	14,19,000
30	Rajasthan	46,51,000
31	Sikkim	41,000
32	Tamil Nadu	33,20,000
33	Telangana	18,41,000
34	Tripura	2,13,000
35	Uttar Pradesh	1,40,14,000
36	Uttarakhand	6,28,000
37	West Bengal	48,23,000
	<b>India</b>	<b>7,40,57,000</b>

\*RGI data

**State/UT-wise projected number of co-morbid population in 60+ age-group**

<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>State/UT</b>	<b>Projected no. of co-morbid population in 60+ age-group*</b>
1	A&N Islands	5,600
2	Andhra Pradesh	13,11,400
3	Arunachal Pradesh	20,000
4	Assam	5,77,600
5	Bihar	18,92,800
6	Chandigarh	15,600
7	Chhattisgarh	5,17,200
8	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	5,200
9	Daman and Diu	4,600
10	Delhi	3,80,800
11	Goa	35,800
12	Gujarat	14,24,600
13	Haryana	5,78,000
14	Himachal Pradesh	1,93,000
15	Jammu and Kashmir	2,53,600
16	Jharkhand	6,50,000
17	Karnataka	15,31,600
18	Kerala	11,70,600
19	Ladakh	5,800
20	Lakshadweep	1,200
21	Madhya Pradesh	14,32,200
22	Maharashtra	29,09,600
23	Manipur	63,000
24	Meghalaya	43,800
25	Mizoram	21,600
26	Nagaland	32,400
27	Odisha	10,47,400
28	Puducherry	31,000
29	Punjab	7,65,800
30	Rajasthan	13,66,600
31	Sikkim	12,800
32	Tamil Nadu	20,83,800
33	Telangana	8,32,000
34	Tripura	91,200
35	Uttar Pradesh	37,54,400
36	Uttarakhand	2,41,800
37	West Bengal	22,09,600
	<b>India</b>	<b>2,75,14,000</b>

\*Projected from RGI data





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Government of India

Department of Health and Family Welfare

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

D.O. No. 1940407/2020/Imm

19<sup>th</sup> May, 2021

राजेश भूषण, आईएएस  
सचिव

**RAJESH BHUSHAN, IAS**

SECRETARY

*Dear Chief Secretary,*

The National Expert Group on Vaccine Administration for COVID-19 (NEGVAC) has been guiding the strategy for COVID-19 vaccination roll-out in the country. Keeping in mind the evolving situation of the pandemic, the emerging scientific evidence and experience from across the globe, NEGVAC has made the following recommendations, which have been accepted by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, regarding COVID-19 vaccination:

1. Deferring the COVID-19 vaccination in the following scenario:
  - i. In case of individuals having lab test proven SARS-2 COVID-19 illness, COVID-19 vaccination to be deferred by 3 months after recovery.
  - ii. In case of SARS-2 COVID-19 patients who have been given anti-SARS-2 monoclonal antibodies or convalescent plasma, COVID-19 vaccination to be deferred by 3 months from discharge from the hospital.
  - iii. In case of individuals who have received atleast the 1<sup>st</sup> dose and got COVID-19 infection before completion of the dosing schedule, the 2<sup>nd</sup> dose should be deferred by 3 months from clinical recovery from COVID-19 illness.
  - iv. Persons with any other serious general illness requiring hospitalization or ICU care should also wait for 4-8 weeks before getting the COVID-19 vaccine.
2. An individual can donate blood after 14 days of either receipt of COVID-19 vaccine or testing RT-PCR negative, if suffering from COVID-19 disease.
3. COVID-19 vaccination is recommended for all lactating women.
4. There is no requirement for screening of the vaccine recipients by Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) prior to COVID-19 vaccination.

I request you to kindly direct the concerned officials to take note of the aforesaid recommendations and undertake necessary action for their effective execution. You may also ensure effective dissemination of the information to service providers as well as the general public in this regard using all forms of media as well as the local language. The requisite training of the vaccination staff at all levels may also be organized.

I am confident of your support and leadership in this important national endeavour.

*Regards.*

Yours sincerely,

**(Rajesh Bhushan)**

**Chief Secretary/Administrator of all States & UTs**

Copy to: ACS(H)/Pr.Secy.(H)/Secy.(H) of all States & UTs