

Why vaccinate your child?



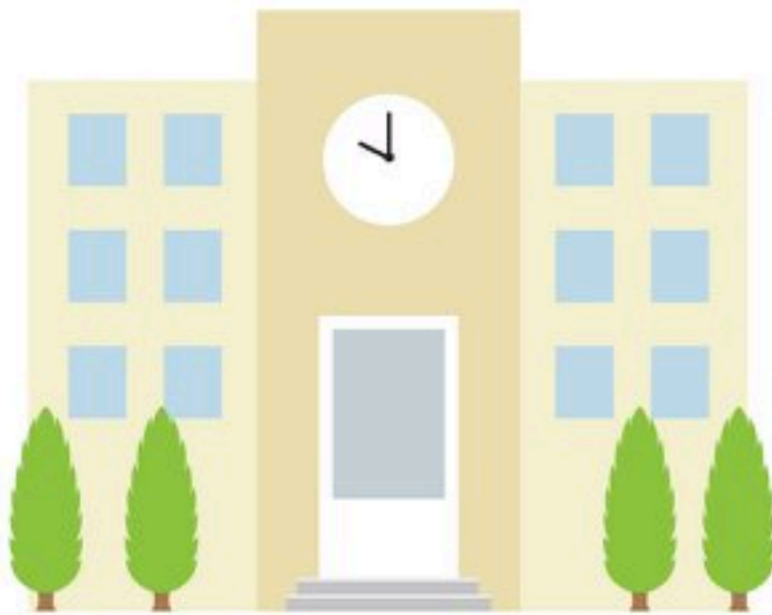
Ministry of Education
SINGAPORE

Vaccinating students can:



Keep your child safe from COVID-19

COVID-19 vaccines significantly reduce the chances of infection and symptomatic disease for your child. They also help to prevent severe illness if infected.



Make education institutions safer

Prioritising vaccinations for students will make it harder for the virus to spread.



Protect your family and community

Students who are vaccinated will have greater peace of mind, that they are keeping their family and loved ones safe while making it harder for the virus to spread.

Is the COVID-19 Vaccine safe?

YES!

All vaccines used in Singapore must:

- Comply with World Health Organisation (WHO) guidelines
- Be assessed by Health Sciences Authority (HSA) to ensure safety and efficacy standards are met

MOH's Expert Committee on COVID-19 Vaccination has independently reviewed the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine and assessed that it is safe and effective for students aged 12 and above.

Similarly, the **Moderna COVID-19 vaccine** has been authorised for use in individuals aged 18 years and above in Singapore, and will also be offered to medically eligible students.

When will the vaccination exercise start

From 1 June

Invitations will go out first to graduating cohorts at the secondary and Pre-University levels, sitting for the GCE N-, O-, or A-Level exams (or equivalent) this year.

Subsequently, over the next two weeks,

invitations will progressively go out to other groups of full-time students in our schools and Institutes of Higher Learning (IHLs), including Privately-Funded Schools (PFSs), Madrasahs and Special Education (SPED) schools.

Things to note:

- Students aged 12 must be accompanied by a parent/guardian during their vaccination.
- Vaccination for students will be made available in the community vaccination centres. To provide additional options for students, MOE will also set up dedicated MOE vaccination centres, at the 3 ITE Colleges and Raffles City Convention Centre from 7 June.
- For students who require additional support, our schools will look into alternative vaccination arrangements when school reopens, including providing transport to the vaccination centres.



How to sign up

From 1 June, SMS invitations will be progressively sent out to:

- Students or parents/guardians of students (if under 18 years old)



Students or parents can use the unique link in the SMS to book their appointment at any of the vaccination centres. Those who are below 18 years old can only select centres where Pfizer vaccines are offered.

Parental consent will be required for students below the age of 18. This will be collected as part of the booking process.

Things to consider

We encourage students and parents to:

- Schedule their vaccination early, as soon as possible
- Consider the timing for both their first and second doses when scheduling their vaccinations
- Sign up for slots during weekends, if they are able to

If students are scheduled for vaccination during school curriculum time, schools and IHLs will provide time-off for them to do so.



Do...

- 1 Talk to your child/ward and ask if they have any concerns about the vaccine
- 2 Explain why it is important for them to be vaccinated
- 3 Encourage them to read up more about the science of vaccines from reputable websites e.g.

- <https://mobileapp.nlb.gov.sg/spotlight/pandemics/covid-19-vaccines>
- <https://www.moh.gov.sg/covid-19/vaccination>
- <https://www.gov.sg/features/covid-19-vaccination>

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



Together we keep Singapore healthy and safe

While COVID-19 vaccination is not mandatory, we encourage all medically eligible individuals to take it up when offered.

When more people are vaccinated, the safer we will be as a community.



FAQs

What are the vaccines available for this exercise?

Based on the Health Sciences Authority (HSA)'s 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 can opt for either the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine.

	Moderna	Pfizer-BioNTech
How it works	Messenger RNA (mRNA) vaccines teach human cells to make "spike proteins", found on the virus that causes COVID-19. Our bodies learn to recognise that the protein does not belong there and make antibodies against future infection.	
Dosage	2 doses, 6 to 8 weeks apart	2 doses, 6 to 8 weeks apart
Efficacy	94.1%	95%
Authorised for	Individuals of 18 years and above	Individuals of 12 years and above

FAQs

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 Health Sciences Authority (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> *(as of 31 May 2021)*

FAQs

Why are we vaccinating students when people who were vaccinated are still getting infected by COVID-19?

While the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine and the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine do not provide perfect protection, they are still very effective in reducing the risks of developing symptomatic or severe disease, and also in reducing the risks of infection.

FAQs

How do I know if my child is medically eligible for vaccination?

Before making appointments for vaccination, you will be prompted to complete an online screening form, which contains medical questions on your child's pre-existing medical conditions. This will help inform those who may not be suitable for vaccination.

There will be another round of medical screening conducted at the vaccination site. You and your child may seek further clarifications with the medical professionals onsite.

Alternatively, you may consult your child's regular doctor for advice. Your doctor may provide a memo on your child's condition to help the medical team at the vaccination site assess your child's suitability for vaccination.

FAQs

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.

FAQs

Can students schedule their vaccination during school hours? Will students be allowed time off from their school/IHL to take their vaccines?

We encourage your child to be scheduled for vaccination outside of school hours to minimise the disruption to school activities. If your child needs to get vaccinated during school hours, or feels unwell from the side effects of the vaccine, he or she would be given time off and deemed to be on medical leave. To facilitate this, we would need your child to provide evidence of the vaccination appointment.