The COVID-19 Vaccine
WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW
Curated from the most frequently-asked-questions among NUHS staff. Here’s sharing with you what we ourselves have wanted to know about the vaccine.

Safety of the COVID-19 Vaccine
There are currently two vaccines approved for use in Singapore. The Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine is for people aged 12 and above, and the Moderna vaccine is for those aged 18 and above.

The vaccines have undergone 3 phases of clinical trials
And numerous safety checks by
- Vaccine makers
- The United States Food and Drug Administration
- Singapore’s Health Sciences Authority
- Singapore’s Expert Committee on COVID-19 Vaccination

Vaccine Effectiveness
Both vaccines are about 95% effective at preventing mild and severe symptoms of COVID-19.

Vaccination is voluntary, but all who are medically eligible are encouraged to be vaccinated.

Protection for All
Vaccination is free for all Singaporeans and long-term residents in Singapore. We will continue to monitor our supplies closely to meet our target of vaccinating all Singaporeans and long-term residents in Singapore by the end of 2021. For now, priority is given to those at high risk.

What to Expect
The current two vaccines approved in Singapore are given via an injection in the upper arm.

Across two shots
42 to 56 days apart
As is usual with vaccination, mild symptoms may be experienced and can last a day or two. This is the body’s normal immune system response to recognise and fight the COVID-19 virus.

Who should not be vaccinated?
- Children aged below 12 years
- Those with very low platelet count of <50K
- Those with history of anaphylaxis (life-threatening allergic reactions)
- Those who experience an allergic reaction after the first vaccine dose
- Persons with severely weakened immune system e.g. recent organ transplant patients
- Persons with a history of multiple allergies or allergic reactions to any drug (including NSAIDS, food, insect stings or unknown trigger idiopathic), not amounting to an anaphylaxis can be vaccinated. If you are unsure about your medical conditions, please check with your doctor before registering for the vaccination.

Sources: “What you should know about the COVID-19 vaccine”, December 2020, Gov.sg and NUHS Townhalls