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சுவசிரிபாய

SUWASIRIPAYA

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சுகாதார அமைச்சு
Ministry of Health

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திகதி) 25.03.2022
Date)

DDG/NHSL

DDG/NH Kandy

Provincial Directors of Health Services

Regional Directors of Health Services

Directors/Medical Superintendentants of Teaching, Provincial General, District General, Base hospitals


Minimizing inconveniences to the public in obtaining the booster dose vaccination while ensuring minimal vaccine wastage

It has been brought to my notice that on some occasions healthcare staff have been compelled to turn clients away from vaccination centres due to the recommended number of individuals not being present to open a vial. However, this has caused considerable inconvenience to the general public and also has contributed to the low booster dose vaccine coverage. The recommendation to open a vial of the COMIRNATY/Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine in the presence of six individuals has been made to minimize the vaccine wastage.

Given the decline in vaccine demand and the need to improve the booster dose vaccine coverage to prevent a further rise in cases, it is recommended to consider opening a vial with 3-6 individuals present under unavoidable circumstances. It should be noted that a diluted vial maintained between 2- 8° C should be used within six hours.

In specific situations where less than 3 individuals are present, the supervising officer has the authority to decide upon opening a vial considering the circumstances such as the feasibility of rescheduling the vaccination for such individuals. When it is evident that rescheduling the vaccination causes considerable inconvenience to the client, a vial may be opened even without 6 clients being present.

However, the healthcare staff should take maximum measures to ensure that an adequate number of individuals are present for a vaccination session to keep the vaccine wastage at a minimum.


Dr Asela Gunawardena
Director General of Health Services

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