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MEDIA RELEASE

Shah Alam, 13 November 2021

## BOOSTER SHOT IS IMPORTANT FOR MAXIMUM PROTECTION AGAINST COVID-19 VIRUS

Dear CodeBlue Editor,

We refer to your article published yesterday entitled “**Sarawak Only Uses Pfizer For Covid-19 Boosters, Sinovac Limited To Pfizer Allergies**” on CodeBlue news portal. In the article, it was written below:

***“Malaysian pharmaceutical company Pharmaniaga Berhad — the exclusive distributor and fill-and-finish manufacturer for Sinovac in Malaysia — appeared to misrepresent the Chile study in a November 5 statement by claiming that three Sinovac doses was “better” than mix-and-match booster vaccines. Pharmaniaga also cited an immunogenicity test in Turkey for that claim, but did not provide a reference.”***

We categorically deny that we have misrepresented the findings at the time the statement was issued, as all information was based on evidences shared with us in respective countries that having 3 doses of Sinovac was better than mixing with other vaccines.

1. 3 doses of Sinovac is better than mixing with Pfizer: Turkish minister. Study shows Chinese vaccine offers highest protection overall when taken consecutively.

<https://asia.nikkei.com/Spotlight/Coronavirus/COVID-vaccines/3-doses-of-Sinovac-is-better-than-mixing-with-Pfizer-Turkish-minister>

2. A study by Chile Ministry of Health in October 2021 shows Sinovac recipients who received Sinovac booster shots have better effectiveness against hospitalisation than those who received Pfizer booster shots.

[https://www.minsal.cl/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/2021-10-07-EFFECTIVIDAD-DOSIS-DE-REFUERZO\\_ENG.pdf](https://www.minsal.cl/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/2021-10-07-EFFECTIVIDAD-DOSIS-DE-REFUERZO_ENG.pdf)

3. Sinovac Oversea Business Senior Director Weining Meng in a recent webinar organised by Pharmaniaga Berhad entitled “COVID-19 Booster Shots and Vaccination for Children: Moving forward with experiences from China, Chile and Indonesia” held on 13 October 2021, said that a booster shot given at an interval of six to 12 months after the second dose would lead to a strong boost in immune response, with neutralising antibody titers increasing to about 20 times in adults and even higher in elderly aged above 60 years.

<https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2021.07.23.21261026v1>

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Despite the fact that other studies have shown minimal effectiveness differences among booster shots, such comparisons will continue forever. For the interest of the nation and the people, we both can agree that all Malaysians should be getting a booster shot for maximum protection against the COVID-19 virus.

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**About Pharmaniaga Berhad**

Pharmaniaga is the leading pharmaceutical company of Boustead Holdings Berhad Group of Companies, which together with the Armed Forces Fund Board, are the major shareholders of the Company. Listed on the Main Board of Bursa Malaysia, Pharmaniaga's core businesses are generic pharmaceuticals manufacturing; research and development; marketing and sales; warehousing and distribution of pharmaceutical and medical products; supply, trading and installation of medical and hospital equipment as well as community pharmacy.

With a vision to be the premier Malaysian pharmaceutical company, Pharmaniaga is guided by its philosophy of 'Do It Right Always' and is empowered by its motto of Passion for Patients. Strengthened by nine manufacturing plants, nationwide logistics and distribution in Malaysia and Indonesia as well as products registered in 15 countries, Pharmaniaga Group is positioned to be a regional player in the international pharmaceutical arena.

***Issued for Pharmaniaga Group by Corporate Communications Department, Pharmaniaga Berhad. For media enquiries, please contact Dato' Zuhri Iskandar Kamarzaman, Corporate Services Deputy Director of Pharmaniaga Berhad at 03-3342 999 ext 434 or by email [zuhri@pharmaniaga.com](mailto:zuhri@pharmaniaga.com).***