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MEDIA RELEASE

**PHARMANIAGA WILL SOON OFFER SINOVAC COVID-19
VACCINE BOOSTER SHOT TO THE PUBLIC**

SHAH ALAM, 5 NOVEMBER 2021 – Pharmaniaga Berhad (Pharmaniaga) has offered Sinovac COVID-19 vaccine to the Ministry of Health (MOH) to cater to the preference of the public for the vaccine as their booster shot.

Pharmaniaga Berhad Group Managing Director Datuk Zulkarnain Md Eusope said the Group is in the final stages of discussion to register the vaccine as a booster shot with National Pharmaceutical Regulatory Agency (NPRA) and expected it to be approved very soon.

"Pharmaniaga has previously supplied more than 22 million doses to MOH and private sector, thus there are about 11 million Sinovac COVID-19 vaccine recipients requiring the booster shot.

"Sinovac COVID-19 booster shot has been approved and used in China, Turkey, Chile, Indonesia and Cambodia. Six other countries are waiting for approval from their respective regulatory authority," he said.

Datuk Zulkarnain was responding to news reports yesterday that a Johor DAP leader who is also a medical practitioner, Dr Boo Cheng Hau, claimed that at least 20% of Sinovac recipients reject Pfizer booster shots as they prefer the same vaccine for their third dose¹.

Recent real-world study in Chile and an immunogenicity test done in Turkey shows three doses of Sinovac is better than mixing with different vaccine as a booster. Research results conducted at the Chinese Academy of Sciences, Peking University, and Sinovac Biotech Co Ltd (Sinovac), shows a third dose of Sinovac would boost immune response as early as 7 days after booster dose with longer persistence of antibodies.

Sinovac Oversea Business Senior Director Weining Meng in a recent webinar² organised by Pharmaniaga said 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 approximately 20 times in adults and even

¹ <https://www.thevibes.com/articles/news/46427/at-least-20-of-sinovac-recipients-reject-pfizer-booster-shots>

² <https://youtu.be/7nFclRyiYQ>

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higher in elderly population above 60 years of age. The booster shot is also highly effective in prevention against deadly Delta and other variants.

Malaysia has approved off-label use heterologous COVID-19 third dose for Sinovac recipients aged above 60 years old (elderly group). This will be part of a subgroup of the Real World Evaluation of COVID-19 Vaccination (RECoVaM) real-world study on COVID-19 vaccine efficacy led by the Institute for Clinical Research (ICR).

"We hope once NPRA approves the application, the Government will give the green light for the vaccine to be administered as a booster shot for Sinovac recipients.

"Majority of Sinovac recipients received their second dose between June and September. As such, the requirement for a booster shot will start from December onwards and we have enough doses to cater for the needs of the nation." Datuk Zulkarnain said and added that the vaccine will also be made available for the private market.

Currently, the vaccine has been approved by NPRA for adults and adolescents aged 12 years and above.

Pharmaniaga is the leading pharmaceutical Company of Boustead Holdings Berhad group of companies, and together with Lembaga Tabung Angkatan Tentera, are the major shareholders of the Company.

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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.

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Forward-looking statement

This release may contain certain forward-looking statements with respect to the financial conditions, results of operations and business of the Group and certain plans and objectives of Pharmaniaga Berhad with respect to these items. By their nature, forward-looking statements involve risk and uncertainty because they relate to events and depend on circumstances that will occur in the future and there are many factors that could cause actual results and developments to differ materially from those expressed or implied by these forward-looking statements.

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.