

MEDIA RELEASE

MALAYSIA APPROVES SINOVAC COVID-19 VACCINE BOOSTER SHOT FOR 18 YEARS AND ABOVE, AVAILABLE FOR PRIVATE MARKET

SHAH ALAM, 18 NOVEMBER 2021 – Pharmaniaga Berhad (Pharmaniaga) will begin to supply Sinovac COVID-19 booster dose at designated private hospitals and clinics soon, following the conditional approval by Drug Control Authority (DCA) yesterday, announced by the Health Director-General YBhg Tan Sri Dato' Seri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah.

The COVID-19 booster dose has been approved for individuals aged 18 years and above who have received the same type of vaccine (homologous) and will be administered three to six months after the second dose, outlined by the COVID-19 Immunisation Task Force - Booster (CITF-B).

Pharmaniaga Group Managing Director Datuk Zulkarnain Md Eusope said a number of Chinese provinces and cities have started giving COVID-19 vaccine boosters to people who received their first two shots at least six months ago¹.

"In China, the booster shot roll-out comes after close to 80% of the population has been vaccinated, to give the optimum protection against the virus and new variants.

"According to a research in China, booster shot given at an interval of six to 12 months after the second dose led to a strong boost in immune response, with geometric mean titers (GMTs) increasing to approximately 140 in adults and even higher in elderly aged above 60 years².

"The GMT of 6 months after the third dose is higher than the peak of the second dose. In addition, the studies also showed higher persistence of antibody of up to 20-fold, 6 months after the booster dose compared to the second dose, indicating a longer duration of protection from COVID-19 protection and new variants.

"Sinovac COVID-19 vaccine is safe as it is developed using inactivated virus which is a well-established technology of more than 40-years that is also being used commonly in many types of vaccines, currently available in the market including for polio, Hepatitis A and rabies," he said.

¹ <https://www.scmp.com/news/china/science/article/3153066/chinese-residents-start-receiving-covid-19-vaccine-boosters>

² <https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2021.07.23.21261026v1>

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Datuk Zulkarnain added that the vaccine will be made available at selected private hospitals and clinics, as an option for individuals who wish to have the Sinovac COVID-19 vaccine booster dose for themselves. This list will be shared on Pharmaniaga's official website (<https://pharmaniaga.com>).

"We hope with this effort, we can see our country revive its economy and help Malaysians weather the COVID-19 pandemic, thus ensuring the well-being of the people, business continuity and most importantly saving lives," he concluded.

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.

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.

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