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MEDIA RELEASE

SINOVAC BOOSTER SHOTS EARLY DATA SHOWS 94% EFFECTIVE AGAINST OMICRON

SHAH ALAM, 18 DECEMBER 2021 – Early data from studies conducted by Sinovac Biotech shows that Sinovac vaccine booster shots are 94% effective against the new COVID-19 variant, Omicron.

Sinovac Biotech in a statement obtained by Pharmaniaga and was also reported by media¹ on 15 December, has said:

“Sinovac has obtained two strains of the Omicron variant from Hong Kong.

Latest lab results showed that, when tested against one of the Omicron strains, 35% of the twenty serum samples (7/20) from recipients of two CoronaVac doses tested positive of the neutralising antibody, and 94% of the 48 samples (45/48) from recipients of three doses tested positive of the neutralising antibody.

These results suggest that a third dose of Sinovac's vaccine was effective in improving the serum neutralisation against the Omicron virus strain. Comparative testing using the other strain of Omicron virus is underway.

Sinovac is conducting further studies that involve sera with different antibody levels and at a wider variety of post-immunisation points of time in order to achieve a comprehensive evaluation of Omicron's impact on the vaccine”.

This supports the statement made by Senior Director of Oversea Business, Sinovac Biotech Co Ltd from China, Weining Meng who said a 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.

During a virtual webinar organised by Pharmaniaga Berhad in October, Meng said the timing of a booster dose should take into account based on existing COVID-19 infection in the country and breakthrough COVID-19 cases after primary vaccination.

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

¹ <https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202112/1241588.shtml>

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According to research conducted at the Chinese Academy of Sciences, Peking University, and Sinovac Biotech, their data also indicated a third dose of the same vaccine for Sinovac recipients, would allow vaccine protection to last longer and better persistence.

All these scientific studies are in line with the statement made by the Minister of Health YB Khairy Jamaluddin yesterday asking all adult Sinovac recipients and those above 60 regardless of their types of vaccines, to take booster shots by end of February 2022.

China has administered booster shots most of its adult population, and since October 2021 it has began vaccinating children aged 3-11². Despite the population of more than 1.4 billion, it registered only 546 new cases and zero death for the past one week³.

Weekly Trends

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	All	Europe	North America	Asia	South America	Africa	Oceania					
#	Country, Other	Cases in the last 7 days	Cases in the preceding 7 days	Weekly Case % Change	Cases in the last 7 days/1M pop	Deaths in the last 7 days	Deaths in the preceding 7 days	Weekly Death % Change	Deaths in the last 7 days/1M pop	Population		
1	China	546	557	-2%	0.4	0	0	0%	0	1,447,417,930		
	World	4,375,834	4,342,189	+0.8%		48,299	50,560	-4%				

Sinovac COVID-19 booster shot has been approved by Drug Control Authority and currently available at selected private healthcare facilities, and for inquiries, please email to askme@pharmaniaga.com.

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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² <https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202110/1237372.shtml>

³ https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/weekly-trends/#weekly_table

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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 statements

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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