

MEDIA RELEASE

RESEARCH SHOWS TWO DOSES OF SINOVAC COVID-19 WITH PFIZER BOOSTER LESS EFFECTIVE TO FIGHT AGAINST OMICRON VARIANT

SHAH ALAM, 9 FEBRUARY 2022 – A study conducted by Yale University, the Dominican Republic's Ministry of Health and other institutions shows that two doses of Sinovac COVID-19 vaccine with a booster Pfizer-BioNTech dose are less effective and produces a lower immune response against the Omicron variant compared with other strains.

Reuters reported¹ the study found the antibody levels produced against Omicron were 6.3-fold lower when compared with the ancestral variant and 2.7-fold lower when compared with Delta. The research also demonstrated that the primary two-dose of Sinovac COVID-19 vaccine with the Pfizer dose produced an antibody response similar to a two-dose mRNA vaccine.

Yale University School of Medicine Immunobiology Professor Akiko Iwasaki, in her official Twitter account² said, "Sinovac COVID-19 vaccine's two-dose recipients boosted with Pfizer mRNA vax, prior infection made no difference to the neutralisation capacity against Omicron." Akiko, is also one of the authors of the study that analysed plasma samples from 101 participants in the Dominican Republic.

Meanwhile, in a separate recent research published³ by Sinovac Biotech Ltd shows that three doses of Sinovac COVID-19 vaccine produced higher neutralising antibodies in 95% of recipients compared with 3.3% by the second dose against variant of concern (VOC), including Omicron.

Its spokesperson Pearson Liu said that this research provides reassurance that inactivated vaccines, one of the most widely used vaccines globally, remains effective in the fight against COVID-19.

"As the world continues to combat the emergence of new COVID-19 variants, the results support a three-dose immunisation regimen to ensure greater protection against COVID-19, a finding which aligns with the advice of the World Health Organization (WHO) and local health authorities around the world for all types of COVID-19 vaccines⁴," he said.

¹ [Sinovac COVID-19 shot with Pfizer booster less effective against Omicron - study | Reuters](#)

² <https://twitter.com/VirusesImmunity/status/1476549105270808578>

³ <https://www.biorxiv.org/content/10.1101/2021.12.24.474084v1.full.pdf>

⁴ [https://www.who.int/news/item/26-11-2021-classification-of-omicron-\(b.1.1.529\)-sars-cov-2-variant-of-concern](https://www.who.int/news/item/26-11-2021-classification-of-omicron-(b.1.1.529)-sars-cov-2-variant-of-concern)

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The research, shared on bioRxiv's medical journal posting was conducted in China and examined the immune response of CoronaVac, in 120 participants. In the research conducted amongst the participants who have received three doses of the CoronaVac, the researchers isolated 323 human monoclonal antibodies (antibodies made by cloning a unique white blood cell), which target various virus areas for effective killing.

Out of these 323 antibodies, more than 300 antibodies exhibited adequate killing activity to most VOCs and Variant of Interest (VOI). The research also showed that the majority of these antibodies have the ability to react with the Omicron Receptor Binding Domains (RBD).

Based on these findings, getting a Sinovac COVID-19 booster is highly recommended for those who have completed their primary vaccination, which offers better protection by creating an antibody response and providing good protection, especially against severe disease.

Members of the public can obtain their Sinovac COVID-19 booster dose through walk in and appointments at our designated clinics across the country, with information available on our official website and Facebook account. (<https://pharmaniaga.com/.../authorised-healthcare.../>)

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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

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