



VACCINATION INFORMATION SHEET SINOVAC COVID-19 VACCINE (CORONAVAC)

This vaccine has been granted authorization under the Pandemic Special Access Route (PSAR) by the Health Sciences Authority (HSA) for use in Singapore under the direction of the Ministry of Health. Read this information carefully. Consult your doctor or clinic if you have questions.

1. What is COVID-19?

COVID-19 is a respiratory illness that can range from mild to severe disease. Spread is mainly through droplets, airborne particles, or touching contaminated surfaces. Symptoms appear 2 to 14 days after exposure, and can include fever, cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, runny nose or loss of smell or taste. Complications can include respiratory failure, heart attacks, blood clots and other long-term problems.

2. What is the Sinovac COVID-19 vaccine (CoronaVac)?

The Sinovac COVID-19 vaccine (CoronaVac) protects against COVID-19. The vaccine is an inactivated virus COVID-19 vaccine which stimulates the body to produce protection against the actual COVID-19 virus. The vaccine efficacy was 51% for symptomatic COVID-19. Protection against severe and fatal COVID-19 may be high, but protection against Delta and other virus variants may be lower.

The vaccine consists of 3 doses. The second dose is given at the recommended interval of 8 weeks or at least 28 days after the first dose, while the third dose is given 3 months after the second dose. The vaccine is safe for use, but like other vaccines and medications, side effects can happen. These are usually mild and get better in 1 to 3 days.

Additional doses are recommended for the following persons:

- a. Persons aged 12 years and above who have received two or more doses of the Sinovac COVID-19 vaccine as part of a three-dose primary vaccination series should receive a booster dose of an mRNA vaccine¹ under the National Vaccination Programme after the completion of their earlier vaccination, regardless of whether they had a previous COVID-19 infection. If the person had a recent COVID-19 infection, the timing of the booster should also be at least 28 days after the infection.
 - i. If the third dose was an mRNA vaccine, they should do so from about five months after the completion of their earlier vaccination
 - ii. If the third dose was a Sinovac COVID-19 vaccine, they should do so at three months after the completion of their earlier vaccination
- b. Persons aged 80 years and above, living in aged care facilities and/or are medically vulnerable should receive a **second** booster dose of an mRNA vaccine¹ from about five months after the first booster dose.
- c. Persons aged 50-79 years can also receive a **second** booster dose of an mRNA vaccine from about five months after the first booster dose.

Sinovac COVID-19 vaccine should only be considered as an option for a booster dose for those medically ineligible to receive the mRNA vaccines or the Nuvaxovid vaccine.

3. Who should get the vaccine? Who should not get the vaccine?

¹ The Moderna/Spikevax vaccine is only for persons aged 18 years and older

You should get this vaccine to be protected against COVID-19, if you are unable to complete vaccination with the mRNA vaccines (Pfizer-BioNTech/Comirnaty or Moderna/Spikevax) and the Nuvaxovid vaccine due to an allergic reaction to the mRNA vaccine or its components. You must be 18 years or older.

You should **NOT** get this vaccine if you had an allergic reaction (including anaphylaxis) to a prior dose of this vaccine, to any ingredients in this vaccine (see Section 5) or to other inactivated vaccines.

Tell your doctor or nurse before getting this vaccine if you:

- had a fever in the past 24 hours
- have active cancer treatment, organ/stem cell transplantation, or are immunocompromised
- have a low platelet count, bleeding disorder, or taking blood thinning medications
- are pregnant, or think you may be pregnant

You likely can still receive the vaccine, but the doctor or nurse may provide additional advice.

4. How is the Sinovac COVID-19 vaccine (CoronaVac) given?

This vaccine is given as an injection into the muscle of your upper arm.

5. What are the ingredients in the Sinovac COVID-19 Vaccine (CoronaVac)?

The Sinovac COVID-19 vaccine (CoronaVac) includes the following ingredients: Inactivated SARS-CoV-2 Virus (CZ02 strain); aluminium hydroxide; disodium hydrogen phosphate dodecahydrate; sodium dihydrogen phosphate monohydrate; sodium chloride.

6. What are the possible side effects? How do I manage the side effects?

Like other vaccines and medications, side effects can happen. Most side effects are mild or moderate, and usually get better within a few days. The table below lists some common side effects that have been reported with this vaccine, and how to manage them.

| Side Effects | How to Manage |
|---|--|
| Pain, redness, swelling at the injection site | Those with fever are advised to self-isolate at home until the fever subsides. |
| Fever, chills | |
| Headache, muscle pain, joint pain | Paracetamol 1 to 2 tablets every 6 hours. |
| Tiredness (Fatigue) | Rest |

- See a doctor if side effects persist or get worse.
- See a doctor to get tested for COVID-19 if you develop cough, sore throat or runny nose, since you don't develop full protection until at least 2 weeks after completing the second dose.
- Rarely, this vaccine may cause Bell's palsy, which is a temporary paralysis on one side of the face. This is a separate condition from a stroke. If you experience weakness on one side of your face, **seek medical attention immediately**.
- Very rarely, this vaccine may cause a severe allergic reaction or anaphylaxis. Symptoms include difficulty breathing, swelling of your face/throat/eyes/lips, fast heartbeat, dizziness/weakness, or rash. If you experience these, **seek medical attention immediately**. Call 995 or go to the nearest A&E immediately.
- If you experience side effects after vaccination which are not listed above, please consult your doctor.

7. Other Advice

Advice for different groups of vaccine recipients:

- If you are on blood thinning medicines, press firmly on the injection site for 5 minutes.
- If you are pregnant, you may wish to consult your obstetrician to discuss benefits and risks.
- If you are on active cancer treatment, recent organ/stem cell transplantation or are on aggressive immunotherapy, please consult your specialist to discuss if you can get this vaccine.

Before vaccination:

- Continue to take your medications as usual, and do not stop them just for the vaccination.
- Avoid dehydration or skipping meals, to reduce risk of fainting after vaccination.
- If you have a fever or are acutely ill, you should re-schedule your vaccination.

After vaccination:

It is advisable to avoid the following after vaccination, to reduce the risk of adverse effects:

- Avoid drinking alcohol for 12-24 hours after getting vaccinated
- Avoid taking non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) for pain or fever after vaccination. (NSAIDs include medications like ibuprofen, ketoprofen, naproxen, and diclofenac.)

8. How do I report side effects?

If you experience severe or unusual side effects, see your doctor, who will be able to advise you and report the side effects to HSA. You may also report side effects directly to HSA on a form by scanning this **QR code**.

**9. What is the Pandemic Special Access Route (PSAR)?**

PSAR is an authorisation process by HSA to facilitate early access to vaccines and medicines during a pandemic, such as COVID-19.

The content of this information sheet was updated on 17/06/22. For the latest COVID-19 vaccine consumer information, please refer to the HSA website at <https://www.hsa.gov.sg/covid-19-information-and-advisories>