The COVID-19 Vaccine
WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW
Curated from the most frequently-asked-questions among NUHS staff. Here's sharing with you what we ourselves have wanted to know about the vaccine.

Safety of the COVID-19 Vaccine
The current vaccine in Singapore is approved for use in Singapore for people aged 16 and above.

The vaccine has undergone 3 phases of clinical trials.

And numerous safety checks by:
- Vaccine makers
- The United States Food and Drug Administration
- Singapore's Health Sciences Authority
- Singapore's Expert Committee on COVID-19 Vaccination

Vaccine Effectiveness
The vaccine is 95% effective at preventing mild and severe symptoms of COVID-19.

Vaccination is voluntary, but all who are medically eligible are encouraged to be vaccinated.

Protection for All
Vaccination is free for all Singaporeans and long-term residents in Singapore. If all goes according to schedule, there will be enough vaccines for everyone by Q3 2021. For now, Priority is given to those at high risk.

What to Expect
The current vaccine approved in Singapore is given via an injection in the upper arm.

As is usual with vaccination, mild symptoms may be experienced and can last a day or two. This is the body's normal immune system response to recognise and fight the COVID-19 virus.

Side effects are often seen after the second dose, usually in those younger than 55.

What should not be vaccinated yet?
- Children below 16 years
- Women who are pregnant, or who become pregnant before their second vaccination dose
- Those with severe allergic response to any food, medication or other vaccines
- Those who experience a severe allergic reaction after the first vaccine dose
- Immunocompromised persons
- Breastfeeding mothers (breastfeeding should be suspended for 5-7 days after vaccination)
- Transplant patients
- Active cancer patients

Sources: "What you should know about the COVID-19 vaccine", December 2020, Gov.sg and NUHS Townhalls

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