Important to consider who will get vaccination priority

Even when a vaccine becomes available, its supply will not be enough to immediately vaccinate the whole of Singapore, Professor Dale Fisher, a senior infectious diseases expert at the National University Hospital, said yesterday.

Hence, it is important to strategise which groups are to get priority when rolling out the vaccine, he added. It is commonly held that the most rational approach is to start with the elderly as they are the most vulnerable and likely to fall seriously ill when infected. Alongside them are those with weak immune systems.

Prof Fisher, however, said his top priority is to first vaccinate the staff of nursing homes.

"Nearly all the nursing home outbreaks are a result of a staff member introducing the virus," So, in fact, this is an important dis-