Expert panel to give advice on safe use of vaccines

14-member committee comprises those from infectious diseases, immunology, other fields

A 14-member committee has been appointed by the Ministry of Health to provide advice to the Government on its Covid-19 vaccination strategy, and ensure the safe and effective use of vaccines after they are administered.

Yesterday, MOH said in a news release that the committee is led by Prof Ling Yah Koen, who is also a member of the WHO’s independent panel on safety and effectiveness of vaccines against Covid-19.

The committee comprises experts from infectious diseases, immunology and other relevant fields. Members include Prof Tan Chorh Chuan, chief health scientist; and executive director of MOH’s Office for Health Transformation; Dr Tan Chuan-Jin, chief executive officer of Lee Kuan Yew Health Institute of Innovation and Research; and Dr Tan Chorh Chuan, president of the Institute of Health and Wellness at the Economic Development Board.

Prof Ling said: "The expert committee will consider the evidence to determine the most up-to-date information and assessment of Covid-19 vaccines, including how they are developed, the global vaccine development landscape and status of support from the World Health Organization, and how they are expected to be used in Singapore."

"With the emergence of new variants, the expert committee will also consider the latest evidence and recommendations from the scientific community before making recommendations on the use of Covid-19 vaccines for the different segments of Singapore’s population."

A participant in a vaccine trial warned an expert panel in Baltimore, Maryland, in May. As the latest clinical data of vaccine candidates emerge, the expert panel will assess their safety, efficacy and suitability for use in Singapore.

Timothy Goh

The safety of Singaporeans is our top priority, and the diverse range of expertise among my colleagues in the expert committee will put us in good stead as we deliberate on strategies for the implementation of Covid-19 vaccination in Singapore.

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR TIMOTHY GOH, WHO, has a wealth of experience in the field of infectious diseases, having worked as a microbiologist and researcher at the National University of Singapore.

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