



MINISTRY OF HEALTH
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Ref: MOH/ADM/1/II/23

24th Dec, 2021

To All County Directors for Health

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**The CEO
Council of Governors
Delta House-Westlands
NAIROBI**

**RE: UPDATED GUIDANCE ON COVID-19 VACCINATION IN THE
COUNTRY**

The Ministry of Health began vaccinations against COVID-19 in March 2021, as an additional measure against the disease and its effects. The Ministry is targeting to vaccinate 30 million adults by end of December 2022. The COVID -19 pandemic has evolved over time, with new variants of concern being detected. It is noteworthy that as evident globally, vaccination against the disease remains one of the most effective long-term solutions of reducing COVID-19's morbidity and mortality.

The government has since deployed multiple COVID-19 vaccines that include mRNA vaccines (Pfizer & Moderna), Viral Vectored vaccines (AstraZeneca & J&J/Janssen) and Inactivated vaccines (Sinopharm). As more population data and evidence on COVID-19 vaccination becomes available, there is continued need



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to provide further guidance on vaccination of various segments of the population including pregnant women, children, and those who have completed the primary series (2 doses of AstraZeneca/Moderna/Pfizer/Sinopharm vaccine or the single dose of J&J/Janssen vaccine).

In this regard, and following technical guidance of The Kenya National Immunisation Technical Advisory Group (KENITAG), the Ministry of Health provides the following recommendations:

1. **Pregnant women-** this population should be offered the mRNA vaccines (Pfizer or Moderna) at any gestational age, at first ANC clinic visit or at first contact with health services. The vaccine can be safely co-administered with Td. Pregnant women who begun vaccination with other types of COVID-19 vaccine should complete vaccination using the same vaccine
2. **Children-** The Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine should be offered to **children who are 15 years of age and above**
3. **People who have completed the primary COVID-19 vaccination series-** This population that has been fully vaccinated should be offered an additional dose of either AstraZeneca, Moderna or Pfizer vaccine **6 months after the completion of the primary series** (the same or different vaccine can be used for the additional dose)
4. Where a **serious adverse event/reaction** has been reported after vaccination, the individual should be switched to a different vaccine type (either mRNA-Pfizer/Moderna or viral vector-AstraZeneca) for completion of the schedule as per the original timelines. For instance, if a serious adverse event occurs after Pfizer or Moderna administration, provide AstraZeneca for second dose 28 days after the initial dose. If the serious adverse event occurs after administration of the AstraZeneca vaccine, provide Pfizer or Moderna as second dose, 8 weeks after the initial shot. **The event must be captured in the patient record and the MOH AEFI**



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form. The list of serious adverse events can be accessed at <https://pv.pharmacyboardkenya.org/pages/about>

- 5. Individuals who have received the first dose of Moderna can receive AstraZeneca as the second dose, 28 days after the Moderna shot was administered.**

The Ministry of Health appreciates the counties efforts in complimenting the National COVID-19 Vaccine Deployment exercise and urges the counties to ensure that all COVID-19 vaccination data is uploaded onto the Chanjo- Kenya platform on a real time basis.

The purpose of this letter is to bring this to your attention and ask that you ensure compliance by officers serving under you.



Dr. Patrick Amoth, EBS

A.g. DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR HEALTH

Copy to: Cabinet Secretary –Ministry of Health
Chief Administrative Secretaries-Ministry of Health
Principal Secretary- Ministry of Health
County Executive Committee Members for Health



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