

MEMORANDUM

FROM: Dr. Narine Singh, Chief Medical Officer (ag)
TO: Mr. Malcom Watkins, Permanent Secretary
COPY: Hon. Dr. Frank Anthony, Minister of Health
DATE: August 13, 2021
SUBJECT: Updated Information for COVID-19 Vaccination Exemptions

Please see update on COVID-19 vaccination exemption that we wish to bring to your attention as we continue the implementation of our COVID-19 vaccination program.

SUBJECT AREA	UPDATED POLICY
Vaccination of breastfeeding mothers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• There is no contraindication to receiving vaccines during the period of breastfeeding. It is however advised that clearance be sought from their doctor before receiving the vaccine.• Mothers who do not wish to be vaccinated can be exempted for a period of six months (from the date of delivery).
Vaccination of pregnant women	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• There is no contraindication to receiving vaccines during pregnancy. It is however advised that clearance be sought from their doctor before receiving the vaccine.• Women who do not wish to be vaccinated for the duration of their pregnancy can be exempted.
COVID-19 vaccination after being COVID-19 positive	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• It is recommended that persons who were tested positive for COVID-19 can receive their vaccines as soon as they are recovered (i.e. 14 days after testing positive).
Vaccination after blood transfusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Individuals who received blood transfusion are eligible for vaccines 2 weeks after being transfused.
Vaccination and blood donation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Persons can donate blood after receiving their vaccine, there is no contraindication for this activity.
Age for vaccination	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The age of vaccination remains 18 years and above, except in the following cases.<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Eligibility for the sinopharm/sinovac vaccine is 18 years to 60 years old➤ Eligibility for the Pfizer vaccine is 12 years and above

OFFICE OF CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER, MOH

Underlying Conditions (All patients with underlying conditions must receive clearance from their doctors)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Patients with any clotting disorder such as haemophilia should be given clearance from their attending Physician before receiving the vaccine.• Patients receiving chemotherapy or dialysis should receive clearance from their attending Physician before receiving the vaccine.• Patients with an active infection should not receive the vaccine until they have recovered. It is important to identify if persons are on antibiotics and the duration of their treatment.• Patients with an acute cardiac event or acute cerebrovascular event cannot receive the vaccine until they have recovered and receive clearance from their attending Physician.
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Note: For persons who are exempted for reasons mentioned above and other underlying illnesses not listed herein, should present a certificate of exemption from a fully registered medical practitioner.

All for your information and action.

Regards

