



राजेश भूषण, आईएएस
सचिव

RAJESH BHUSHAN, IAS
SECRETARY



भारत सरकार
स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण विभाग
स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय
Government of India
Department of Health and Family Welfare
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

D.O. No. P-2317579/2021/Imm.
14th March 2022

Dear Chief Secretary,

The National COVID-19 Vaccination Program has covered 95.5% of the eligible population (15 years and above) with at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine while more than 80% of the eligible beneficiaries are fully vaccinated. More than 180 crore vaccine doses of COVID-19 vaccine have been administered. This mammoth task has been made possible with the active support from States/UTs. Precaution dose is also being administered to the Health Care Workers, Front Line Workers, and 60 years and above age group with comorbidities since 10th January 2022.

2. National COVID-19 vaccination program has continuously been guided by scientific evidences and global best practices. On the recommendation of the experts it has now been decided to further expand the coverage of COVID-19 vaccination as follows:

- COVID-19 vaccination of children in the age group of 12-14 years to be started from 16th March 2022. Only Corbevax vaccine would be used for the beneficiaries of age group 12-13 and 13-14 years. Beneficiaries between 14-15 years have already been covered in the vaccination for 15-18 years' age group.
- Precaution dose can now be provided to all persons of 60 years and above age. The prioritization and sequencing of this precaution dose would be based on completion of 9 months i.e. 39 weeks from the date of administration of second dose. Vaccination of precaution dose should be with the same vaccine with which primary vaccination was done (homologous).

All citizen irrespective of their income status are entitled to free COVID-19 vaccination at Govt. Covid Vaccination Centers. Doses of all three vaccines being used under the National Covid Vaccination Programme i.e. Covisheild, Covaxin and CorBEvax are available in sufficient quantities in the States/UTs.

3. A detailed guideline prepared for vaccination of children of 12-14 years is annexed (**Annexure-1**). As CorBEvax vaccine is approved only for those above 12 years of age, it should be ensured that children who are above 12 years of age only, are vaccinated i.e. those who are born on or before 15th March 2010. The vaccinator and verifier should ensure that beneficiaries less than 12 years on the date of vaccination are not vaccinated even if he/she is registered on CoWIN.

4. The State/UTs wise projected number of 12-14 years age group provided by Registrar General of India (RGI) is annexed (**Annexure-2**). The State/UT wise projected number of 60 years and above age group provided by Registrar General of India is also annexed (**Annexure-3**).

5. I look forward to your continuous support in this endeavor to effectively address the pandemic.

Warm Regards,

Yours sincerely,

(Rajesh Bhushan)

Encls. : A/a

To : Chief Secretary/Administrator of all States/UTs.

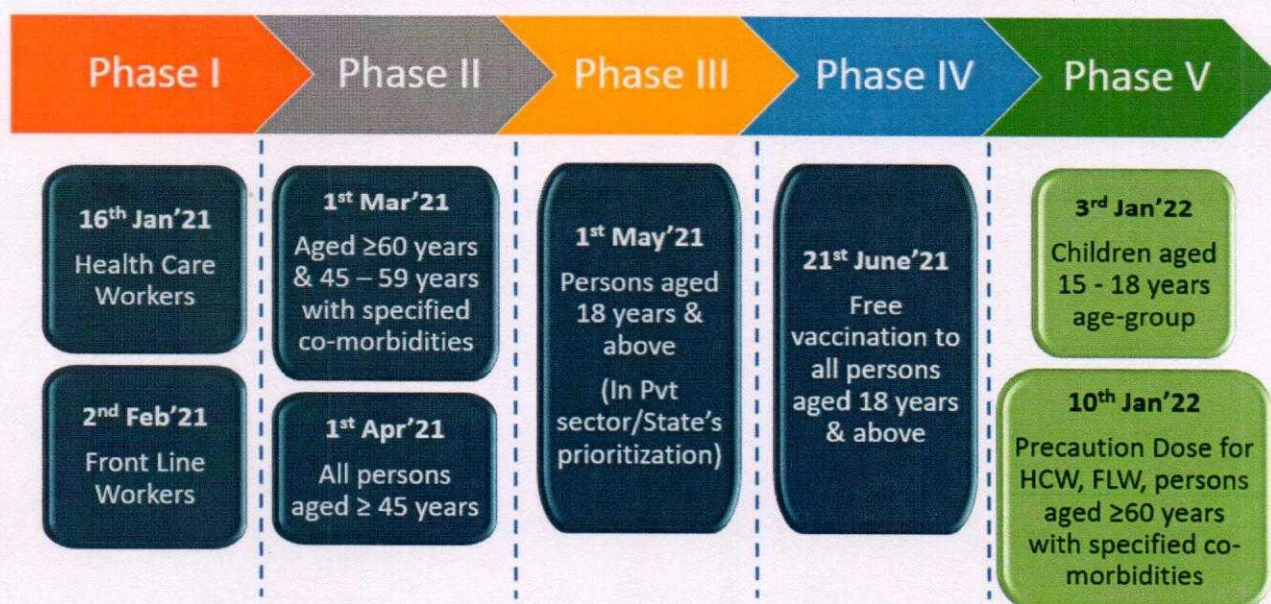
Copy to: Additional Chief Secretary/Principal Secretary/Secretary(Health)-All States & UTs

Guidelines for COVID-19 vaccination of children between 12-14 years of age

India's National COVID Vaccination Program is built on scientific and epidemiological evidence, WHO guidelines and global best practices. The program started with the vaccination of health care workers (HCWs) and frontline workers (FLWs). The program ambit expanded in a phased manner, with the inclusion of all individuals aged 18 years and above from 1st May 2021. The program coverage was further expanded to children 15 to 18 years of age from 3rd January 2022 and administration of precaution dose to HCWs, FLWs and people aged 60 +years with comorbidities based on medical advice from 10th January 2022.

Keeping in mind the evolving situation of the Covid-19 pandemic and the emerging evidence, the expert group has decided to expand Covid-19 vaccination program to children aged 12 to 14 years from March 2022. Only CorBEvax would be used for these beneficiaries in the age group of 12 to 13years & 13-14 years in government CVCs in view of vaccine security issues and limited availability of other Covid-19 vaccines approved for this age group.

National COVID-19 Vaccination Policy



Vaccine characteristics:

- Vaccine Brand Name: SARS-CoV-2 (Covid-19) Vaccine [CorBEvax™]
- Manufacturer's Name: Biological E. Limited, Telangana, India
- Vaccine Type: Protein sub-unit
- Doses per vial: 20 doses
- Each dose: 0.5ml
- Frequency of dose: 2 doses at an interval of 28 days
- Mode of administration: Intramuscular
- Storage Temperature: +2 to +8° C
- Shelf Life: 12 months from the date of manufacture

Operationalization

As the 12 to 14 years' age group constitutes school-going children, complimentary strategies may be formulated to ensure vaccination of all eligible beneficiaries in this age group, irrespective of whether they are enrolled in state/central government schools, aided/unaided private schools or other non-formal schools like madrasas etc. are covered with strict adherence to the operational guidelines for Covid19 vaccination.

Management and reporting of AEFIs will be as per existing guidelines. Anaphylaxis kits must be available with each vaccination teams.

Vaccine will be administered to only those children who have attained the age of 12 years on the date of vaccination. The vaccinator and verifier will be responsible to ensure that any beneficiary aged less than 12 years on the date of vaccination is not vaccinated with special attention to those born in 2010.

Recording and reporting of vaccination for this age group will be on CoWIN as per the existing guidelines.

Co-WIN features and provisions for beneficiaries aged 12-14 years:

1. All beneficiaries born in year 2010 or earlier i.e. those who have already attained age of 12 years as will be able to register on CoWIN. The vaccination slots will be booked for 12-14 years age group for "CorBEvax" only through Co-WIN.
2. Vaccinator has to ensure that vaccine is administered to **only those children who have completed the age of 12 years on the date of vaccination** and if a child is registered but not attained age of 12 years the vaccination is not to be given .

3. Registration can be done through the following modes:
 - Self-registration through an existing account on Co-WIN of a family member or by creating a new account through a unique mobile number (this facility is available for all eligible citizens presently).
 - Onsite registration by the vaccinator in facilitated registration mode
4. Appointments can be booked online or onsite (walk-in) for 12-14 years. For such beneficiaries, option for vaccination would only be "CorBEvax"
5. Vaccination of 12-14 years would be conducted through dedicated vaccination sessions (i.e. earmarked COVID-19 Vaccination Centers for vaccination of 12-14 years' age-group) to avoid their unintended vaccination with any other COVID-19 vaccines.

State/UT wise Projected Population 12-14 years of age group

S.No.	States/UTs	Projected population as on 1st March 2021 by age in completed years and Sex (in thousands)			
		12 years		13 years	
		M	F	M	F
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands*	3	3	4	3
2	Andhra Pradesh	376	362	383	369
3	Arunachal Pradesh	18	18	17	17
4	Assam	339	332	341	334
5	Bihar	1,428	1,389	1,426	1,383
6	Chandigarh*	13	10	12	10
7	Chhattisgarh	265	257	266	258
8	Dadra & Nagar Haveli*	8	5	7	5
9	Daman & Diu*	4	2	4	2
10	Delhi	164	140	167	144
11	Goa*	13	11	13	13
12	Gujarat	598	529	603	533
13	Haryana	263	219	266	221
14	Himachal Pradesh	59	53	60	53
15	Jammu & Kashmir	161	137	162	138
16	Jharkhand	402	393	404	395
17	Karnataka	515	493	520	497
18	Kerala	257	247	259	248
19	Ladakh*	2	2	2	3
20	Lakshadweep*	1	2	1	2
21	Madhya Pradesh	781	740	783	740
22	Maharashtra	1,027	920	1,040	932
23	Manipur	31	29	31	29
24	Meghalaya*	36	36	36	36
25	Mizoram	11	10	12	11
26	Nagaland*	24	22	25	23
27	Odisha	389	368	392	372
28	Puducherry	14	13	14	15
29	Punjab	233	195	239	198
30	Rajasthan	778	713	780	716
31	Sikkim*	6	6	7	7
32	Tamil Nadu	541	514	546	520
33	Telangana	289	274	294	279
34	Tripura*	35	33	36	33
35	Uttar Pradesh	2,194	2,017	2,217	2,036
36	Uttarakhand	103	91	105	93
37	West Bengal	762	742	776	755
	India	12,143	11,327	12,250	11,423
	Total	47,143			

Annexure-3

State/UT wise Projected Population for 60 years and above age group

S. No.	State/UT	60 years and above
1	A&N Islands	28,000
2	Andhra Pradesh	65,57,000
3	Arunachal Pradesh	1,00,000
4	Assam	28,88,000
5	Bihar	94,64,000
6	Chandigarh	78,000
7	Chhattisgarh	25,86,000
8	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	26,000
9	Daman and Diu	23,000
10	Delhi	19,04,000
11	Goa	1,79,000
12	Gujarat	71,23,000
13	Haryana	28,90,000
14	Himachal Pradesh	9,65,000
15	Jammu and Kashmir	12,68,000
16	Jharkhand	32,50,000
17	Karnataka	76,58,000
18	Kerala	58,53,000
19	Ladakh	29,000
20	Lakshadweep	6,000
21	Madhya Pradesh	71,61,000
22	Maharashtra	1,45,48,000
23	Manipur	3,15,000
24	Meghalaya	2,19,000
25	Mizoram	1,08,000
26	Nagaland	1,62,000
27	Odisha	52,37,000
28	Puducherry	1,55,000
29	Punjab	38,29,000
30	Rajasthan	68,33,000
31	Sikkim	64,000
32	Tamil Nadu	1,04,19,000
33	Telangana	41,60,000
34	Tripura	4,56,000
35	Uttar Pradesh	1,87,72,000
36	Uttarakhand	12,09,000
37	West Bengal	1,10,48,000
	India	13,75,70,000