



كمنتريين كصحتين
KEMENTERIAN KESIHATAN
MINISTRY OF HEALTH



INFORMATION ON THE SINOPHARM COVID-19 VACCINE

Why do we need to have COVID-19 vaccination?

Vaccination is an effective measure to protect yourself, your loved ones, and the community from the harmful effects of COVID-19. Although there are no local cases in Brunei Darussalam, we remain at risk of COVID-19 outbreaks. The more people that are vaccinated, the greater the level of population immunity against the disease.

What is the Sinopharm COVID-19 vaccine?

The Sinopharm vaccine uses an inactivated version of the original virus that has been modified. This step destroys the pathogen's genetic material which stops it from causing disease. However, the inactivated material is still able to stimulate our immune system and teach it how to fight off future infections with the virus.

Does the vaccine contain any porcine-derived products?

The Sinopharm COVID-19 vaccine does not contain any porcine-derived products. The Department of Scientific Services has conducted rigorous testing and the laboratory results indicate that there is no porcine DNA or gelatine detected in the vaccine.

Is this vaccine licensed for use in Brunei Darussalam?

The Brunei Darussalam Medicines Control Authority (BDMCA) has verified the safety and efficacy of the Sinopharm vaccine following a stringent scientific assessment process by the national COVID-19 Vaccines Technical Committee. Authorization for use in Brunei Darussalam has been granted under the

Special Approval during Public Health Emergency or Pandemic situation.

Is this vaccine used in any other countries?

In addition to Brunei Darussalam, the Sinopharm vaccine has also received approval for use by at least 27 other countries including China, Jordan, and the United Arab Emirates.

How effective is the vaccine?

The effectiveness of the Sinopharm vaccine was studied in an international randomized control Phase 3 trial that took place in a number of countries including UAE, Bahrain, Egypt, and Jordan. Based on the findings of this trial, the efficacy of the Sinopharm vaccine in preventing symptomatic COVID-19 disease, after 2 doses, is 78%. This is comparable to a number of other vaccine candidates.

How safe is the vaccine?

The Sinopharm vaccine relies on a tried-and-trusted vaccine technology. Safety data found no significant difference in the rate of adverse events among individuals who received the vaccine compared to those who received a placebo. To date, more than 60 million doses of the Sinopharm vaccine has been administered worldwide and no serious safety signals have been detected.

Who can receive the Sinopharm vaccine?

This vaccine is safe and effective in adults aged 18 years up to 59 years of age. The vaccine will be

offered according to the prioritization schedule set out in the National COVID-19 Vaccination Strategy.

Who should not receive the Sinopharm vaccine?

The following individuals should not receive the Sinopharm COVID-19 vaccine:

- Allergy to any component including excipients
- Previous allergy to vaccines
- Fever or unwell at the time of receiving the vaccination

In addition to the above, the Ministry of Health does not recommend the following groups to receive the Sinopharm vaccine due to lack of clinical trial data at present. This may be revised as more evidence becomes available.

- Uncontrolled epilepsy or other progressive nervous system diseases
- History of Guillain-Barre syndrome
- Pregnant
- Breastfeeding
- Poorly controlled disease
- Acute or chronic disease
- Immune deficiency
- Active cancer

If you are unsure of your eligibility, you should consult with your doctor prior to vaccination.

Can I just take one dose of the vaccine?

Two doses of the Sinopharm vaccine are required to achieve optimal protection against COVID-19. Persons who receive the Sinopharm vaccine should

complete two doses, at 21 – 28 days between the first and second dose.

How is the vaccine administered?

The Sinopharm vaccine is given as an injection into the muscle of your upper arm and consists of 2 doses. You need both doses to have the full vaccine protection, and for the protection to last as long as possible.

Can I be vaccinated if I am ill on the day of vaccination?

If you are unwell, please reschedule your vaccination via the BruHealth app.

I have missed my vaccination appointment. What should I do?

As much as possible, please turn up for your appointment to avoid denying someone else an appointment slot and to ensure a smooth vaccination process. If you have missed your appointment, please rebook your appointment via the BruHealth app as soon as possible.

Are there any side effects? What should I do if I suffer from any side effects?

The vaccine has been assessed to be safe for use. However, you may experience common side effects, similar to other vaccines. These include pain at the injection site, mild fever, muscle or joint pain. Most side effects are mild and usually get better within a few days.

If you encounter these side effects, you may take 1-2 tablets of paracetamol every 6 hours as needed. You should see a doctor if the symptoms get worse, or if the fever persists for more than 2 days.

Please report your symptoms on the BruHealth App or fill in the "SYMPTOMS AFTER COVID-19 VACCINATION REPORTING FORM". Contact the Health Advice Line 148 if you have further queries.

What happens if I develop an allergic reaction?

While allergic reactions are uncommon with the Sinopharm vaccine, if you have left the vaccination site and experience a possible allergic reaction (e.g. eye or lip swelling, hives, generalised skin rashes, breathlessness), you should seek immediate medical attention. Fever, chills, muscle pain, headaches, injection site pain are not allergic reactions.

Please report your symptoms on the BruHealth App or fill in the "SYMPTOMS AFTER COVID-19 VACCINATION REPORTING FORM". Contact the Health Advice Line 148 if you have further queries.

What happens after vaccination?

Until a significant proportion of the population is vaccinated we will need to continue to practice public health measures, such as good hand hygiene, avoiding public areas when symptomatic, and QR scanning into premises using the BruHealth application so that we can continue to protect ourselves and our loved ones.