Objective

To provide guidelines for the Sinopharm vaccine storage, handling, administration and safe disposal along with recommendations for vaccine recipients.

Rationale

Vaccines are important part of strategies to curtail the devastating Covid-19 pandemic. Sinopharm vaccine needs special handling to maintain its effectiveness. Safe transportation, storage, administration and disposal of vaccine waste must be ensured at all vaccination facilities.

Instructions

Vaccine Storage

- Storage and transportation in **refrigerated (2-8°C) condition**
- **Do not freeze the vaccine** under any circumstance
- **Protect the vaccine from direct exposure to sunlight**

Who should receive the Vaccine

- Individuals who are 12 years of age and above
- Vaccination is recommended for persons with comorbidities that have been identified as increasing the risk of severe COVID-19, including obesity, cardiovascular disease, respiratory disease and diabetes.
- Pregnant women and those who are breastfeeding
**Who should NOT receive Sinopharm Vaccine**

- Individuals having **fever at the time of coming for vaccination** (Can be rescheduled after the illness is settled)
- Patients with **active COVID-19**
  - Those with mild COVID-19 can receive the vaccine once the isolation period complete.
  - Those with severe COVID-19 can receive the vaccine once they become stable
- Individuals on **short-term immunosuppressive medication** should wait for 28 day after the medication ends.
- Those **chronically immunosuppressed** may receive the vaccine, though efficacy may be lower
  - Those post-transplantation may receive the vaccine 3 months after transplantation
  - Those post chemotherapy may receive the vaccine 28 days after chemotherapy

Vaccine recipients of all age groups should continue to strictly observe all the precautionary measures necessary for protection against COVID-19 disease: use of face masks, social distancing, hand washing with soap and use of hand sanitizers.

**Vaccine Administration**

- Route of Administration: **Intra-muscular** intramuscular injection in the deltoid region of the upper arm.
  - Dose: 0.5ml
  - Presentation: **Single dose vial**

**Vaccine Dose**

- **Two doses** should be administered
- The second dose should be given **28 days** after the first dose.

**Steps of Administration**

1. Wear mask and observe COVID-19 SOPs
2. **Greet** the client
3. Complete verification process in the National Immunization Management System (NIMS)
4. Ensure **consent** by stating “that you are receiving this COVID-19 vaccine because you have registered yourself into the system”
5. Expose site (deltoid of non-dominant arm) for administration
6. **Explain the procedure and inform** that some pain on giving injection, discomfort at the site of injection or fever after the injection, may happen
7. Take vaccine vial out of the vaccine carrier
8. Open the vial by removing plastic cover/cap
9. Take out 22G-25G 0.5ml syringe and remove needle cap
10. Discard the cap in safety box
11. Insert the syringe needle through the top rubber pad of vaccine vial
12. Draw 0.5ml of diluted vaccine from the vial
13. Inject intra muscularily at the site of injection at an angle of 90° (right angle) following “No-touch technique”
14. Dispose the syringe in the safety box
15. Complete entry in the NIMS
16. Send the client for observation area for 30 minutes
17. After 30 minutes if no acute adverse events are experienced by the client, explain the next steps on follow up visit for second dose. Report to health facility /1166 helpline if any adverse event is experienced.
18. Get ready for next vaccination

**Sinopharm Vaccine Waste Management**

- Used vials and syringes must be collected safely by the vaccinator
- Syringes may be disposed through environment friendly incinerators where available
- The vials and syringes may be disposed together in burial/burning pits
- Pit must be closed with 50cm (half ft.) soil layer before the pit is completely filled
- The vaccinator under supervision of the health facility in-charge of the concerned health facility will ensure proper disposal of COVID-19 vaccination waste.
- Daily waste generation and disposal record must be maintained by the vaccinator

**During vaccination, Do NOT**

- Touch the rubber pad of vaccine vial (causes contamination and result in AEFI)
- Recap needle of syringes (can cause needle stick injuries)

Please refer to “Annexure A” checklist for covid-19 vaccine administration
Note: The above recommendations are being regularly reviewed by the Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations & Coordination and will be updated based on the international & national recommendations and best practices.

The Ministry acknowledges the contribution of Dr. Faisal Mahmoud, Dr. Asad Ali, EPI Team and HSA/ HPSIU/ NIH team to compile these guidelines.

For more information, please contact:

HSA/ HPSIU/ NIH, PM National Health Complex, Islamabad
http://covid.gov.pk/
http://www.hsa.edu.pk/ https://twitter.com/nhsrcofficial
## Annex-A

### CHECKLIST FOR COVID-19 VACCINE ADMINISTRATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Client Name:</th>
<th>Age:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ID Card:</td>
<td>Gender:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Address:</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

#### Staff name/Signatures

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Greet the Client</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Make sure that you and client are wearing face mask</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Complete the 2-step verification of client</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. Ensure consent by stating that &quot;you are receiving this COVID-19 vaccine because you registered yourself in the system&quot;</td>
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<td>5. Prepare dose</td>
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<tr>
<td>6. Explain the procedure and inform that some pain on giving injection, and discomfort or fever after the injection, can appear</td>
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<tr>
<td>7. Administer injection</td>
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<td>8. Properly dispose the injection waste</td>
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<td>9. Send the client to observation section for 30 minutes</td>
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<tr>
<td>10. After 30 minutes, and with no acute AEFI, handover the letter of next appointment to the client</td>
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<tr>
<td>11. Explain the next steps</td>
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<td>12. Respond to Qs if any, as the last step.</td>
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