

Recommendations on COVID-19 Vaccines

WHO Scientific Advisory Group of Experts (SAGE)

MS COVID-19 Briefing
7 January 2021

WHO interim recommendation for the use of mRNA BNT162b2 (Pfizer-BioNTech) (1/2)

- BNT162b2 (Pfizer vaccine) has been shown to have an **efficacy** of 95% against symptomatic SARS-CoV-2 infection.
- No data are available related to **impact on transmission** or viral shedding.
- Vaccination is recommended for persons aged 16 years and above.
- The **recommended schedule** is two doses given intramuscularly with an interval of 21–28 days between the doses.
- The need for **flexibility** in the schedule was acknowledged and current data support an extension up to 42 days (6 weeks).
- The same product should be used for both doses. There are **no studies on interchangeability** with other vaccines against COVID-19 .

WHO interim recommendation for the use of mRNA BNT162b2 (Pfizer-BioNTech) (2/2): *Vaccination of specific populations*

- BNT162b2 is not a live vaccine, the mRNA does not enter the nucleus and is rapidly degraded. Animal studies show no toxicity to the fetus, but no data on safety in pregnant women exist.
- SAGE recommends not to use BNT162b2 in **pregnancy** until more data are available, except where the benefit outweighs risks, such as health workers at high risk of exposure or women with significant comorbidities.
- Vaccination can be offered to **breastfeeding women** if part of risk group, and WHO does not recommend discontinuation of breastfeeding after vaccination.
- Vaccination can be offered to **people living with HIV** in accordance to the prioritization roadmap