

## **Government of India's Vaccination Plan Guidelines:**

The government has constituted a National Expert Group on Vaccine Administration for COVID-19 (NEGVAC). The NEGVAC guides on all aspects of COVID-19 Vaccine introduction in India. High-level coordination at national, state and districts levels will be established for effective cooperation and collaboration among the key departments. Twenty-three ministries/ departments and numerous developmental partners will coordinate in planning for COVID-19 vaccine introduction.

### **TRAINING OF STAFF INVOLVED IN VACCINATION:**

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1. Enumerators for beneficiary listing, health functionaries for vaccination activities, social mobilisers for all mobilisation activities and communication training for all workers involved in the process of vaccination will be given prior training.
2. Initially, all national and state training of trainers may be successfully conducted on virtual platforms.
3. After that, training will be imparted at district and sub-district levels using a mix of virtual and face-to-face pieces of training.
4. The COVID-19 vaccine will be introduced once all training is completed in the district/block/planning unit.
5. Every effort would be made to ensure that everyone in the country has access to timely, accurate and transparent information about the COVID-19 vaccine(s).

### **PRIORITISATION OF WHO GETS VACCINATED FIRST:**

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1. The COVID-19 vaccine will be offered first to healthcare workers, frontline workers and to persons above 50 years of age.
2. Second rung of priority will be persons younger than 50 years of age with associated comorbidities based on evolving pandemic situation.
3. The third rung is the remaining population based on the disease epidemiology and vaccine availability.

#### **Further factors that will affect priorities:**

The priority group of above 50 years may be further subdivided into those above 60 years of age and those between 50 to 60 years of age for purposes of the phasing of roll out based on pandemic situation and vaccine availability.

Identification of population of 50 years and more will be done basis the latest electoral roll for Lok Sabha and Legislative Assembly elections.

#### **Digital Platform used to enlist beneficiaries:**

- One cannot walk into a clinic or vaccination facility and get vaccinated arbitrarily.
- The COVID Vaccine Intelligence Network (Co-WIN) system, a digitalised platform will be used to track the enlisted beneficiaries for vaccination and COVID-19 vaccines on a real-time basis.
- At the vaccination site, only pre-registered beneficiaries will be vaccinated in accordance with the prioritisation, and there will be no provision for on- the-spot registrations.

#### **Vaccination sessions will look like this:**

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1. One session for 100 beneficiaries
  2. While most of the healthcare and frontline workers would be vaccinated at fixed session sites, vaccination of other high-risk populations may require outreach session sites, and mobile sites/teams.
  3. State/UT can identify specific days for vaccination.
  4. Conduct of the vaccination process similar to the Election process.

**The vaccination team will consist of five members as follows:**

- **Vaccinator Officer-** Doctors (MBBS/BDS), Staff Nurse, Pharmacist, ANM, LHV; anyone legally authorized to give injection may be considered as a potential vaccinator
- **Vaccination Officer 1:** At least one person (Police, home guard, Civil Defence, NCC, NSS, NYK) who will check the registration status of the beneficiary at the entry point and ensure guarded entry to the vaccination session.
- **Vaccination Officer 2:** is the verifier who will authenticate/verify the identification documents;
- **Vaccination Officer 3 & 4** are the two-support staff who will be responsible for crowd management, IEC/communication and support to vaccinator.

**Precautions in terms of storage and transportation:**

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1. Essential health services including existing routine immunization sessions should not be impacted or interrupted.
  2. Vaccine safety needs to be ensured during storage, transportation and delivery of vaccine with sufficient police arrangements so that there are no leakages in the delivery system.

**Administration with strict hygiene and safety precautions:**

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1. SOPs for infection prevention and control practices, safe injection practices and waste disposal, will be followed during the vaccination sessions.
  2. As large population groups will be vaccinated over a short period of time with a new vaccine, monitoring the safety of these vaccines will be critical.

**Post-Vaccination health-watch:**

- **The existing Adverse Event Following Immunization (AEFI)** surveillance system will be utilized to monitor adverse events and inform the understanding of the safety profile of the vaccines.
- To ensure confidence in the vaccine and the immunization programme during COVID-19 vaccine introduction, states/UTs must rapidly detect and promptly respond to all AEFIs.
- The reporting of AEFI through SAFEVAC is being integrated with Co-WIN software and every AEFI to be reported at the district level and further the referral mechanisms in case of any AEFI needs to be put in place.

**Each step-in vaccine introduction will be monitored. This includes:**

- Tracking the progress of introduction activities – training, vaccine logistics availability, task forces. This will be supported by partners through tracking mechanisms.
- Readiness assessment prior to vaccine introduction – field visits and desk review of data at national and state levels.

- Concurrent monitoring of vaccination activities – daily evening meetings, standardized monitoring tools, mobile-based app, real-time data from planning unit to the national level.
- Knowledge management- The best practices and innovations at all levels would be shared for improving the implementation in the next phase of scale up.

### **Roles of different Ministries/Departments in COVID-19 vaccine implementation**

Roles expected from different government departments to support COVID-19 vaccination have been defined, however, the list is indicative and task forces may engage with more departments or assign additional roles depending on local needs.

No	Department	Vaccine rollout: Planning & Implementation	Social Mobilization and awareness generation
1	<b>Women and Child Development / Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS)</b>	Share data on ICDS staff for inclusion in COVID-19 vaccine beneficiary list  Provide team members and monitors for vaccination  Support supervision and monitoring of vaccination	Capacity building of AWW / other staff on interpersonal communication for COVID Vaccine  Generate community awareness on COVID-19 vaccination mainly through IPC
2	<b>Panchayati Raj</b>	Ensure registration of health care workers working in health facilities under Zila Parishad/ Panchayat  Identification and planning for vaccination site  Support in organizing vaccination sessions including vaccine site preparation and logistics	Create awareness through community meetings, Special Gram Sabhas and messages to PRIs
3	<b>Rural Development</b>	Support SHG engagement in vaccine roll out at vaccination site including working as team members, (wherever needed)  SHG support in logistics management, including vaccine site preparation, cleaning etc.  BDOs and village functionaries to help in vaccine delivery and monitoring	Through NRLM, engage all SHGs for social mobilization, awareness generation, house visits etc.  SHGs to conduct local plays, nukkad natak, be part of community radio engagements, conduct group meetings

4	<b>Education</b>	Support in management of vaccination session site including working as team members, (wherever needed)	Community awareness through school teachers, shiksha mitra, Educate parents on why school children are not being vaccinated in early stages etc.
5	<b>AYUSH</b>	Identification of HCW with AYUSH Provide vaccinators legally authorized to give injections and other team members	Use their platforms for dissemination of IEC
6	<b>Urban Development</b>	Ensuring registration of health care workers and other front-line workers working in Municipal Corporation, Municipality, etc. Enlisting of corporation staff as and when it is decided to vaccinate them Support identification of session site with enough space for vaccination and session logistic planning in urban areas including, ULB, corporations and big municipal corporation areas	Involve providing lead role in communication and social mobilization activities for COVID-19 vaccine roll out in urban areas including, ULB, corporations and big municipal corporation areas Active involvement of urban Self-Help groups under National Urban Livelihood Mission, (Mahila Arogya Samitis) to increase awareness on importance of COVID-19 vaccination in urban areas Spreading the awareness on COVID appropriate behavior
7	<b>Sports and Youth</b>	NYKS/ NSS to support session management and crowd control at session site	NYKS, NSS and national youth clubs to participate and support COVID-19 vaccine communication through its social mobilization activities
8	<b>State Police Department</b>	Support identification and vaccination of beneficiaries from police department Support vaccine delivery in hard to reach and LWE areas Provide security to vaccine during storage, shipment and at session site Support with vaccination team members - police personnel/ Home guards etc. for site management and crowd management	Support and facilitation of COVID-19 communication in areas of the Police to help in spreading awareness on COVID appropriate behavior

9	<b>Revenue</b>	Support identification and/or making available land/space for organizing session sites where required	Generating awareness on COVID vaccination and mobilization of the concerned population groups
10	<b>Public Works Department</b>	Support identification of session sites Support in ensuring logistics and drinking water at session sites	Dissemination of awareness messages
11	<b>Public Health Engineering</b>	Support identification of session sites Support in ensuring logistics and drinking water at session sites	Dissemination of awareness messages
12	<b>Information &amp; Broadcasting</b>		Community awareness through Satellite TV Channels and F.M. Radio Channels, community Radios  Identifying champions/ ambassadors and opinion makers and dissemination of the right messaging through opinion articles.  Through BOC:  To conduct special folk programmes nationwide  Conduct exhibitions at district level  Hoardings and wall writings  Through PIB and state I&B departments:  Media Relations  Issue of press releases
13	<b>Defence Establishments</b>	Support in registration of Armed forces beneficiaries  Supply for vaccine delivery in hard to reach and security sensitive areas  Liasoning with district administration for session planning and training of vaccinators in their system to ensure vaccination of their staff	Utilization of ex- servicemen in social mobilization, activities  Ensure participation of NCC in social mobilization and awareness generation.

14	<b>Food and Civil Supplies</b>	Support in providing cold storage spaces and transport system, if needed  Facilitate biometric authentication or finger print readers at session sites	Generating awareness on COVID vaccination
15	<b>Social Welfare</b>	Support setting up session sites in welfare home premises, if needed	Generating awareness among identified priority group for COVID-19 vaccination
16	<b>Minority Welfare</b>	Support setting up session sites in premises of affiliated institutions, if needed	Generating awareness among identified priority group for COVID-19 vaccination
17	<b>Tribal Welfare</b>	Allow setting up session sites in schools premises	Generating awareness on COVID vaccination in tribal communities and their mobilization
18	<b>Animal Husbandry</b>	Support in provision of dedicated cold storage equipment/facilities for vaccine storage, if required	
19	<b>Railways</b>	Support identification and vaccination of HCW with the railways  Coordinate with DM / DC for vaccination of railway HCW  Support in conducting vaccination sessions in railway hospitals, dispensaries and other premises.	Support communication through screening of AV spots on trains and platforms and use COVID- 19 vaccine branding on the tickets
20	<b>Labour &amp; Employment</b>	Support identification and vaccination of HCW with the ESI  Coordinate with DM / DC for vaccination of ESI HCW  Support in conducting vaccination sessions in ESI hospitals	Support COVID-19 vaccination through institutions under MOLE, such as ESIC to conduct awareness programmes through their networks.

21	<b>Information and Technology</b>	<p>Village level engagement of Common Service Centers for the beneficiaries</p> <p>registration, monitoring, printing of beneficiary certification and other services where connectivity and web-based methods are required</p>	<p>Encouraging mobile service providers to send text and voice messages, caller tunes on COVID vaccination Message and IEC on telephone bills etc.</p>
22	<b>State AIDS Control Society</b>	<p>ICTC Counsellors/ Counsellors in TI projects to provide counselling on hesitancy, eagerness etc.</p>	<p>ICTC Counsellors to provide counselling on hesitancy, eagerness etc. TI projects to undertake campaigns on anti-stigma, eagerness, hesitancy</p> <p>State AIDS Control Societies to support trainings and awareness campaigns</p>
23	<b>Department of Power</b>	<p>Ensure uninterrupted power supply at vaccine storage point and session site</p>	