



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

राजेश भूषण, आईएएस
सचिव

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SECRETARY

D.O. No. 1920764/2020-Imm.
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Dear Colleague,

As you are aware, the Ministry has issued the Liberalised Pricing and Accelerated National Covid-19 Vaccination Strategy for further accelerating the pace of COVID-19 vaccination. The said Strategy Document is available at – <https://www.mohfw.gov.in/pdf/LiberalisedPricingandAcceleratedNationalCovid19VaccinationStrategy2042021.pdf>.

In view of the expansion of the cohort of eligible beneficiaries with inclusion of citizens aged 18 years to 44 years, for vaccination in private sector vaccination centers, the States/UTs would have to make the necessary preparations, well in advance, to ensure that the eligible citizens are able to access the vaccination services seamlessly and conveniently. Since, the cohort of eligible beneficiaries has been significantly enhanced, suitable arrangements must be made to avoid overcrowding and consequent law and order situations, at the vaccination centers. In this context, following decisions are clarified for facilitating systematic implementation of phase III of the vaccination drive from 1st May, 2021 –

1. Registration of COVID Vaccination Centers (CVCs):

- 1.1. It will continue to be mandatory for all Government and Private COVID Vaccination Centers (CVCs) to register on the CoWIN system, regardless of the source of vaccine doses. It shall also be mandatory for all CVCs to record all vaccinations, issue digital vaccination certificates and to report all AEFIs on the CoWIN system.
- 1.2. The eligibility conditions for any health facility for registration as a CVC also remain unchanged. For any Private Health Facility to be operated as a CVC, the facility must have the following –
 1. Sufficient Cold Chain equipment and capacity.
 2. Sufficient rooms/space for waiting area, vaccination and observation post vaccination.
 3. Sufficient number of trained vaccinators and verifiers
 4. Ability to manage the Adverse Events Following Immunization (AEFI), as per the norms and guidelines of the Ministry.

1.3. Registration of Industrial Establishment CVCs:

1. Wherever an Industrial Establishment has a hospital that is eligible for registration as a CVC as per the eligibility conditions given in para 1.2, such Industrial Establishment Hospital can be registered on CoWIN as an Industrial Establishment CVC.

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2. The Industrial Establishments without such suitable hospital may be registered as an Industrial Workplace CVC, with mapping to any other existing private CVC.
- 1.4. Henceforth, it will not be necessary for the State/UT Governments to send any proposals to the Ministry for approval of new private CVCs, prior to their registration on CoWIN. The State/UT Government may designate an appropriate Authority at State/District level that will ensure that only facilities eligible as per the criteria specified in para 1.2 above, are registered on CoWIN as a CVC. The Designated Authority must take a decision on registration, with in two days of the receipt of application/request in this regard.
- 1.5. Registration of CVCs, on the CoWIN system, will continue to be done by the District Immunization Officer.
- 1.6. There will be no need for the existing private CVC, which is already on CoWIN, to re-register on the COWIN system.
- 2. Procurement of vaccine doses and declaration of stocks and prices:**
 - 2.1. The private hospitals and industrial establishments (through their hospitals), willing to provide vaccination services, may procure vaccine doses from the manufacturers, through their hospitals, exclusively from the 50% supply earmarked for other than Govt. of India channel.
 - 2.2. Each private CVC, including the already registered CVCs, must declare on CoWIN, the vaccine type(s), the stocks of vaccines and the prices decided by the CVC to be charged to the citizens, for vaccination services being offered 1st May 2021 onwards. Appropriate changes are being done in the facility registration module of CoWIN to include these informations.
 - 2.3. The vaccine types and theirs prices will be displayed in the "Appointments" module on CoWIN so that the citizens can make an informed choice at the time of booking a vaccination appointment.
 - 2.4. The private CVCs will be able to populate their schedule for offering appointment slots for citizens only after the requisite information as mentioned in para 2.2 has been declared on CoWIN.
 - 2.5. All vaccination slots at private CVCs will continue to be offered only for online appointment from CoWIN or Arogya Setu. On-site registration/appointments will be allowed only, if any doses are left in the last opened vial(s) so as to minimize vaccine wastages.
 - 2.6. The provisions of para 2.5 will not be applicable to Industrial Establishment CVCs and Workplace CVCs when these CVCs are operated exclusively for a defined group (for example for employees of an industrial establishment etc.).

3. Eligibility of beneficiaries:

- 3.1. As provided in the Strategy Document, all priority groups, such as the Health Care Workers, the Front-Line Workers and citizens above aged 45 years or more (as on 01.01.2022), shall continue to be eligible for vaccination –
1. Free of cost from the Government CVCs; or
 2. On payment from the private CVCs.
- 3.2. The State/UT Governments, in the event of procurement of vaccine doses directly from the manufacturers, may decide to expand the coverage from the doses so procured to reduce the cut off age for eligibility for vaccination at the Government CVCs. The CoWIN system shall provide the feature to States/UTs for setting the minimum age cut off value for a State/UT. In such cases the Government CVCs will be visible to eligible beneficiaries for booking an online appointment based on validation on the minimum cut off age defined by the respective State/UT Government.
- 3.3. Citizens in the age group of 18 years to 44 years shall be eligible to receive vaccination, on payment, from any of the private CVCs. Citizens below the age of 45 years shall also be eligible to receive vaccination from a Government CVC in a State/UT where that State/UT decides to lower the minimum cut off age for eligibility of beneficiaries to less than 45 years, for covering such additional eligible beneficiaries from the vaccine stocks directly procured by the respective State/UT Government from vaccine manufacturers.

4. Registration and appointment of expanded cohort (18-44 years of age as on 01.01.2022):

- 4.1. Registration of citizens in 18-44 age group will start with only online registration on CoWIN from 28.04.2021 (Wednesday) onwards.
- 4.2. The online appointment facility will also be offered from 28.04.2021 (Wednesday) for such citizens for booking appointments for sessions and slots available on CoWIN for vaccination from 01.05.2021 (Saturday) onwards.

In view of the above, the States/UTs are advised to take the following actions immediately –

1. Registration of the new CVCs may be taken up in campaign mode. Meetings may be held with private hospitals and their representative organizations in which they may be fully informed about the Liberalised Pricing and Accelerated National Covid-19 Vaccination Strategy and above provisions, as well as how these provisions will be implemented.
2. Registration of willing hospitals meeting the eligibility criteria may be done on CoWIN on an expeditious basis. Subsequent of registration, user credentials for CoWIN may be provided to the newly registered private CVCs without any delay. Trainings may also be provided to the staff proposed to be used as vaccinators, arrangements at such CVCs, norms for social distancing, COVID Appropriate Behaviour and for AEFI management protocols as per the Guidelines of the Ministry.

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3. The new version of CoWIN software is being prepared for implementation of the revised protocols. In the meanwhile, trainings for the CVC site managers and verifiers and vaccinators may be planned for use of CoWIN. Such training schedule may be shared by States/UTs at covid19vaccine.mohfw@gmail.com.
4. Adequate publicity in all forms of media may be ensured to create awareness among citizens that the vaccination services to citizens in the age group of 18 to 44 years is initially being offered only through online self-registration and appointments through CoWIN (cowin.gov.in) and Arogya Setu and that there would be no facility for on-site (walk-in) registration for such beneficiaries initially.
5. The system of supplying vaccine stocks to private CVCs and collection of Rs. 150 per dose, will cease to exist from 1st May 2021. State/UT Government would therefore need to do a complete stock taking of the funds deposited by the Private CVCs, the vaccine doses supplied to them, the vaccine doses utilized so far and the doses likely to be utilized till 30th April 2021. Any unutilized vaccine stocks, balance as on April 30th 2021, will have to be returned to the Cold Chain Point from where the stocks were issued. The State/UT Governments must make a careful assessment of the potential for full utilization of such vaccine doses up to 30th April 2021, before issuing any further stocks to the private CVCs.
6. All States/UTs must closely coordinate with law & order authorities for the first week beginning from 1st May 2021 in respect of crowd management at private CVCs.

I look forward to successful implementation of the Liberalised Pricing and Accelerated National Covid-19 Vaccination Strategy in your State/UT.

Warm regards.

Yours sincerely



(Rajesh Bhushan)

Additional Chief Secretary/ Principal Secretary/ Secretary, Health - All States/UTs