



澳門特別行政區政府
 Governo da Região Administrativa
 Especial de Macau
 衛生局
 Serviços de Saúde

疾病預防及控制中心
 技術指引
 CDC (Macao SS)
 Technical Guidelines

No.: 043.CDC-NDIV.GL.2021
 Ver.: 6.0
 Created on: 2021.09.14
 Revised on: 2022.04.30
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《關於工作人員接種新冠病毒疫苗及接受新冠病毒核酸檢測的指引》 -
 常見問題集
 Frequently Asked Questions on “Guideline on COVID-19 Vaccination
 and Nucleic Acid Testing for Staff”

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1 Purpose of the Guideline and Basis of Implementation

1.1 What is the purpose of the “Guideline on COVID-19 Vaccination and Nucleic Acid Testing for Staff” issued by the Health Bureau? What are the contents of the guideline?

Answer: In the face of an increasing austere COVID-19 situation worldwide, and vaccination against COVID-19 may effectively reduce infection and transmission, to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in workplaces in order to ensure safety at workplaces, the Health Bureau issues, in accordance with stipulations in article 5 of Law no. 2/2004 - “Law on Prevention, Control and Treatment of Infectious Diseases”, the “Guideline on COVID-19 Vaccination and Nucleic Acid Testing for Staff” as follow:

- To prevent the spread of COVID-19 in workplaces, all staff are responsible to get vaccinated against COVID-19. Staff who must be in contact with service users during work, or share a confined workplace with others could easily transmit the virus to others if being infected; therefore, starting from 21 February 2022, those who have not completed the whole course of the COVID-19 primary vaccination series (2 doses of inactivated vaccine or mRNA vaccine are required to complete the whole course of the primary vaccination series) for at least 14 days should undergo nucleic acid test at least once every 7 days.
- To take forward the implementation of the guideline, all public and private entities should, depending on their practical situation, make corresponding arrangements for their staff or staff of their regulated entities, and request for professional opinion from the Novel Coronavirus Response and Coordination Centre when necessary.

This guideline shall be executed by relevant individuals and public/private entities under the supervision of their supervisory entities. Under article 3 (Obligation to cooperate) of Law no. 2/2004 – “Law on the Prevention, Control and Treatment of Infectious Diseases”, to achieve the target of prevention, control and treatment of infectious diseases, individuals and public/private entities are obligated to closely cooperate with their supervisory entities, and comply with the orders and guidelines issued by their supervisory entities. This technical guideline is without

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prejudice to any more concrete or stringent orders and guidelines set out by relevant supervisory entities in light of the actual circumstances.

1.2 Is the “Guideline on COVID-19 Vaccination and Nucleic Acid Testing for Staff” against the principle of voluntary vaccination?

Answer: In view that a number of epidemic outbreaks around the globe occur in workplaces, it is necessary to strengthen the safety at workplaces, and the “Guideline on COVID-19 Vaccination and Nucleic Acid Testing for Staff” is therefore issued. The guideline does not run contrary to the MSAR Government’s principle of voluntariness and selectivity of vaccination; relevant workers may choose to receive vaccine or undergo nucleic acid testing without being vaccinated.

1.3 What are the scientific grounds for requiring staff who have not completed the whole course of COVID-19 primary vaccination series (2 doses of inactivated vaccine or mRNA vaccine are required to complete the whole course of the primary vaccination series) for at least 14 days to undergo nucleic acid test at least once every 7 days?

Answer: Vaccination may effectively reduce the risk of infection and transmission of novel coronavirus; the risk of infection and transmission of COVID-19 is higher in unvaccinated people or those who have not completed the whole course of the COVID-19 primary vaccination series for at least 14 days. To prevent the spread of COVID-19 in workplaces, workers who are not yet 14 days past the full COVID-19 primary vaccination course and have a potential of spreading the disease to others must undergo nucleic acid testing on a regular basis to ensure early detection, early isolation and adoption of intervention measures; relevant measures are an effective way to guarantee the safety of working environments and the public.

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2 Applicable Population Groups of the Guideline

2.1 Which are the applicable population groups of the “Guideline on COVID-19 Vaccination and Nucleic Acid Testing for Staff”?


Answer: As a principled guideline, its scope of application includes workers who need to come into contact with service users during work or who share a confined workplace (most indoor workplaces) with others. This guideline shall be executed by relevant individuals and public/private entities under the supervision of their supervisory entities; corresponding arrangements should be made by all public and private entities, depending on their practical situation, for their staff or staff of their regulated entities in order to implement the guideline.

2.2 To which industry is the “Guideline on COVID-19 Vaccination and Nucleic Acid Testing for Staff” not applicable? Practitioners of which industries are neither required to get the vaccine nor submit to regular testing?

Answer: This is a principled guideline which shall be executed by relevant individuals and public/private entities under the supervision of their supervisory entities; all public and private entities should, depending on their practical situation, make corresponding arrangements for their staff or staff of their regulated entities in order to implement the guideline.

2.3 Is the “Guideline on COVID-19 Vaccination and Nucleic Acid Testing for Staff” applicable to the target worker populations (including cold chain related personnel, workers who engage in contacts with persons or goods coming from outside Macao, personnel providing cross-boundary transportation and crew members of aircrafts, frontline personnel of the Public Security Forces who need to come into contact with positive COVID-19 cases during work, workers at medical observation facilities, as well as health workers)?

Answer: The risk of exposure is comparatively higher in the above stated target worker

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populations; therefore, regardless of their vaccination status, they are required to submit to regular nucleic acid testing in accordance with the requirements; please refer to “Prevention of Novel Coronavirus Pneumonia – Guideline on Regular SARS-CoV-2 Nucleic Acid Testing of Target Worker Populations” for relevant testing requirements.

2.4 Who should not receive COVID-19 vaccines?


Answer:

- Contraindications to COVID-19 vaccine include: People who have severe allergic reactions to the vaccine or any ingredient of the vaccine; inactivated vaccines are not indicated to individuals with previous severe allergic reactions to other vaccines; besides, vaccination is also not recommended for people with expected survival time of less than 3 months or currently under palliative care.
- Other conditions where vaccination should be postponed include: People having febrile diseases; pregnant women (except those intending to travel to high risk areas); persons who have developed myocarditis or pericarditis after their first dose of COVID-19 mRNA vaccine (as there is currently limited safety data, it is suggested to defer vaccination of the second dose).

2.5 How to acquire the medical assessment certificate for being unsuitable for COVID-19 vaccination?


Answer: Medical assessment certificate for being unsuitable for COVID-19 vaccination can be obtained by the steps as follow:

- Receive clinical assessment directly from a doctor at the vaccination sites (including Conde de S. Januário General Hospital, various Health Centres or Health Stations of the Health Bureau, and other COVID-19 vaccination stations across the territory); if unsuitable for vaccination or delayed vaccination is recommended, you will be issued with a certificate of medical assessment accordingly.

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- Receive medical assessment in a scheduled outpatient setting at Conde de S. Januário General Hospital or Health Centres, or by utilising the walk-in consultation service at Health Centres; persons assessed as eligible will be issued with the certificate as well.

Only medical assessment certificate acquired by means of the abovementioned methods will be considered as valid “Medical Assessment Certificate for Being Unsuitable for COVID-19 Vaccination”. For details, please refer the epidemic control guideline – “Acquisition of Medical Assessment Certificate for Being Unsuitable for COVID-19 Vaccination” and “Acquisition of Medical Certificate of Unsuitability for COVID-19 Vaccination – Frequently Asked Questions” in the Special Webpage Against Epidemics (<https://www.ssm.gov.mo/PreventCOVID-19/>).

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3 Specific Implementation and Arrangement

3.1 How will the “Guideline on COVID-19 Vaccination and Nucleic Acid Testing for Staff” be implemented and overseen?

Answer: As the guideline involves workforces in various sectors, it should be executed by relevant individuals and public/private entities under the supervision of respective supervisory entities. Detailed information of vaccination and nucleic acid testing are shown on the Macao Health Code for inspection and monitoring by the enforcement departments.


3.2 How to define “whole course of COVID-19 primary vaccination series completed with immunity”?

Answer: “Whole course of COVID-19 primary vaccination series completed” refers to completion of the recommended doses in the primary series of such type of vaccine (2 doses of inactivated vaccine or mRNA vaccine are required to complete the whole course of the primary vaccination series); “fully vaccinated with immunity” indicates that the whole course of primary vaccination series has been completed for more than 14 days.

3.3 How is “having completed the whole course of COVID-19 primary vaccination series for at least 14 days” calculated?

Answer: For example, if the whole course of COVID-19 primary vaccination series is completed on 1st February 2022, then 15th (1+14) of February 2022 is considered as the date reaching 14 days. Presently, those who have completed the full primary vaccination series against COVID-19 for 14 days or more will have a gold-coloured frame surrounding their Macao Health Code (see the picture below).



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3.4 Starting from 21 February 2022, do I need to submit to nucleic acid tests after receiving my first dose of inactivated or mRNA COVID-19 vaccine?

Answer: Starting from 21 February 2022, people who have only received one dose of inactivated or mRNA COVID-19 vaccine are required to submit to nucleic acid tests until they have completed the whole course of COVID-19 primary vaccination series for at least 14 days (2 doses of inactivated vaccine or mRNA vaccine are required to complete the whole course of the primary vaccination series). The entities responsible for enforcement should request the concerned workers to present a vaccination record as required.

3.5 Can workers (including civil servants and non-civil service workforces) assessed as unfit or requiring postponement of vaccination get tested for free? How can they make an appointment?

Answer: Workers who have obtained a medical certificate of unsuitability for COVID-19 vaccination after clinical assessment can book a free nucleic acid test via the this link: <https://app.ssm.gov.mo/certifiedunvaccinaternabook> . The validity period of the entitlement to free NAT corresponds with the validity period indicated on the medical certificate. After this period, free booking cannot be made, and the certificate holder should undergo clinical assessment again or get vaccinated at the specified time. The results of viral nucleic acid tests will be made available at the following link: <https://app.ssm.gov.mo/aptrtchecker> . The test results are for work purposes only; they will not be displayed on the Macao Health Code and cannot be used for immigration clearance.

3.6 If workforces defined within the applicable scope of the “Guideline on COVID-19 Vaccination and Nucleic Acid Testing for Staff” fail to abide by the guideline, what consequences would they face?

Answer: For workforces who fail to take forward the implementation of the guideline, supervisory entities must execute their supervisory responsibility and manage accordingly.