



राजेश भूषण, आईएएस  
सचिव

**RAJESH BHUSHAN, IAS**  
SECRETARY



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  
D.O. No. 1940407/2020/Imm  
19<sup>th</sup> May, 2021

*Dear Chief Secretary,*

The National Expert Group on Vaccine Administration for COVID-19 (NEGVAC) has been guiding the strategy for COVID-19 vaccination roll-out in the country. Keeping in mind the evolving situation of the pandemic, the emerging scientific evidence and experience from across the globe, NEGVAC has made the following recommendations, which have been accepted by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, regarding COVID-19 vaccination:

1. Deferring the COVID-19 vaccination in the following scenario:
  - i. In case of individuals having lab test proven SARS-2 COVID-19 illness, COVID-19 vaccination to be deferred by 3 months after recovery.
  - ii. In case of SARS-2 COVID-19 patients who have been given anti-SARS-2 monoclonal antibodies or convalescent plasma, COVID-19 vaccination to be deferred by 3 months from discharge from the hospital.
  - iii. In case of individuals who have received atleast the 1<sup>st</sup> dose and got COVID-19 infection before completion of the dosing schedule, the 2<sup>nd</sup> dose should be deferred by 3 months from clinical recovery from COVID-19 illness.
  - iv. Persons with any other serious general illness requiring hospitalization or ICU care should also wait for 4-8 weeks before getting the COVID-19 vaccine.
2. An individual can donate blood after 14 days of either receipt of COVID-19 vaccine or testing RT-PCR negative, if suffering from COVID-19 disease.
3. COVID-19 vaccination is recommended for all lactating women.
4. There is no requirement for screening of the vaccine recipients by Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) prior to COVID-19 vaccination.

I request you to kindly direct the concerned officials to take note of the aforesaid recommendations and undertake necessary action for their effective execution. You may also ensure effective dissemination of the information to service providers as well as the general public in this regard using all forms of media as well as the local language. The requisite training of the vaccination staff at all levels may also be organized.

I am confident of your support and leadership in this important national endeavour.

*Regards.*

Yours sincerely,

*(Rajesh Bhushan)*

**Chief Secretary/Administrator of all States & UTs**

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