

COVID-19 Vaccination in Indonesia

Iris Rengganis, Anshari Saifuddin

Indonesian Society of Allergy and Immunology

Division of Allergy and Clinical Immunology, Department of Internal Medicine, Faculty of Medicine

Universitas Indonesia, Cipto Mangunkusumo General Hospital

It has been one year since the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) was declared national disaster in Indonesia since April 2020. As March 15, 2021, more than one million people have been confirmed with COVID-19 and 37 thousands have died. COVID-19 increasing cases had negative impact on various sectors in Indonesia, including economy, education and health sectors. In order to prevent more new cases, interventions need to be carried out, by implementing health protocols and vaccinations.

Coronavac vaccine (manufactured by Sinovac, China) was the first COVID-19 vaccine arrived in Indonesia. On January 11, 2021, Majelis Ulama Indonesia (Indonesian Clerics Society) has decided that the Coronavac vaccine was halal. Indonesian Food and Drug Administration (BPOM) has issued emergency permit to use the Coronavac vaccine because it met the safety standards from the World Health Organization (WHO). The efficacy of the Coronavac vaccine in Indonesia is 65.3% in the vaccinated group compared to the unvaccinated group. In the future, other vaccines platform will come to Indonesia and will be used for the public, including vaccines from Astra Zeneca, Novavax, Sinopharm, Pfizer and Moderna.

The vaccine procurement plan for Indonesia reaches more than 300 million doses with target population of more than 180 millions with hope to achieve herd immunity. We hope that the COVID-19 transmission chain can be broken by achieving it. Implementation stages for COVID-19 vaccination program in Indonesia are as follows:

1. 1st phase with implementation time from January to April 2021. Targets for COVID-19 vaccination 1st phase are health workers, assistant health workers, support staffs, and students who are currently undergoing professional education and other medical personnels working in healthcare facilities.
2. 2nd phase with implementation time from January to April 2021. Targets for COVID-19 vaccination 2nd phase are: a. Public service officers, namely soldiers, polices, legal officers,

and other public service officers including officers at airports / ports / stations / terminals, banks, state electricity and drinking water companies, as well as other officers directly involved in providing services to public. b. Elderly group (≥ 60 years).

3. 3rd phase with implementation time from April 2021 - March 2022. Targets for COVID-19 vaccination 3rd phase are vulnerable communities from geospatial, social, and economic aspects.

4. 4th phase with implementation time from April 2021 - March 2022. Targets for COVID-19 vaccination 4th phase are the communities and other economic actors using cluster approach according to vaccine availability.

The number of health workers who will be vaccinated in the 1st phase were around 1.3 millions, followed by public officials with 17.4 millions and the elderly with around 21 millions in 2nd phase. In general, everyone can participate in vaccination, except those considered to have contraindications. The Ministry of Health has developed criteria for individuals who could be vaccinated by taking recommendations from various medical associations. Individuals with certain comorbidities temporarily cannot be vaccinated. However, research on COVID-19 vaccination continues and the recommendations for eligibility criteria for vaccination will also continue to change. Research results on various COVID-19 vaccine platforms show good results in preventing COVID-19 infection, ranging from mild to severe infection. Each type of COVID-19 vaccines has advantages and disadvantages, both in terms of effectiveness, safety, storage and others. The Ministry of Health will organize the use of COVID-19 vaccines for all Indonesians. In general, COVID-19 vaccine was given in two shots. Coronavac injection is carried out on day 0 and day 14 for population with age < 59 years, 0 and day 28 for age ≥ 60 years. The maximum antibody titer will be formed at 2 weeks after the second injection. If only given one injection, the antibodies formed could be inadequate, so the second injection is very important to prevent infection.

The COVID-19 vaccination program was still running in Indonesia and expected to be completed in the next few years. We hope that all goes well, so that the COVID-19 pandemic in Indonesia can be eliminated.