



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

RAJESH BHUSHAN, IAS
SECRETARY

D.O No. 1940407/2020/Imm
13th May 2021

Dear Colleague,

COVID-19 vaccination drive in India has completed 117 days during which we have been able to vaccinate 17.7 crore beneficiaries of which 3.9 crore beneficiaries have completed the two doses schedule of vaccination as per the recommended interval of 4 weeks for Covaxin and 6-8 weeks for Covishield. This has been possible due to the proactive involvement of all States and UTs.

2. In view of the emerging scientific evidences, the interval between two doses of a specified COVID-19 vaccine i.e. COVISHIELD, has been revisited by Covid Working Group of The National Technical Advisory Group on Immunization (NTAGI) and subsequently by National Expert Group on Vaccine Administration for COVID-19 (NEGVAC) in its meeting held on 12th May 2021. NEGVAC has recommended revision in schedule of Covishield to administer the 2nd dose at 12-16 weeks interval after 1st dose instead of earlier interval of 6-8 weeks.

3. MoHFW, Government of India has since accepted the recommendation of NTAGI and NEGVAC. Therefore, the States and UTs are advised to ensure 2nd dose of Covishield to beneficiaries within this stipulated time interval of 12-16 weeks after 1st dose.

4. I request you to kindly instruct the concerned officials to undertake necessary steps to widely disseminate the message of revised dosing interval amongst programme managers, vaccinators and recipients of COVISHIELD vaccine and ensure adherence of revised dosing interval. Requisite changes are being carried out in the Co-WIN platform and would be separately communicated to the States/UTs. **You are also requested to note that this decision of revised time interval between two doses is applicable only to Covishield and not to Covaxin vaccine.**

Warm Regards.

Yours sincerely

(Rajesh Bhushan)

Chief Secretary, All States & UTs,

Copy to: Additional Chief Secretary/Principal Secretary/Secretary(Health)
All States & UTs