Recommendations on COVID-19 Vaccines
WHO Scientific Advisory Group of Experts (SAGE)

MS COVID-19 Briefing
7 January 2021
WHO interim recommendation for the use of mRNA BNT162b2 (Pfizer-BioNTech) (1/2)

- BNT162b2 (Pfizer vaccine) has been shown to have an **efficacy** of 95% against symptomatic SARS-CoV-2 infection.

- No data are available related to **impact on transmission** or viral shedding.

- Vaccination is recommended for persons aged 16 years and above.

- The **recommended schedule** is two doses given intramuscularly with an interval of 21–28 days between the doses.

- The need for **flexibility** in the schedule was acknowledged and current data support an extension up to 42 days (6 weeks).

- The same product should be used for both doses. There are **no studies on interchangeability** with other vaccines against COVID-19.
WHO interim recommendation for the use of mRNA BNT162b2 (Pfizer-BioNTech) (2/2): Vaccination of specific populations

- BNT162b2 is not a live vaccine, the mRNA does not enter the nucleus and is rapidly degraded. Animal studies show no toxicity to the fetus, but no data on safety in pregnant women exist.

- SAGE recommends not to use BNT162b2 in pregnancy until more data are available, except where the benefit outweighs risks, such as health workers at high risk of exposure or women with significant comorbidities.

- Vaccination can be offered to breastfeeding women if part of risk group, and WHO does not recommend discontinuation of breastfeeding after vaccination.

- Vaccination can be offered to people living with HIV in accordance to the prioritization roadmap.