



PR#117-22

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **MOHW Encourages Uptake of Second COVID-19 Booster**

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SARS-COV-2 or COVID-19 infections continue to be a public health concern around the world. Therefore, the Ministry of Health & Wellness invites health care workers, persons 60 years and older, and persons with chronic illnesses to visit their nearest vaccination site for a second COVID-19 booster, which is recommended four months after receiving the first.

The rate of infections and hospitalizations due to severe illness is dependent on the circulation of the variants of the virus. Boosters have been shown to increase the immune response to COVID-19 with data showing that fewer infections, hospitalizations and deaths are seen among vaccinated persons compared to those who are unvaccinated.

As the education sector moves toward full face-to-face classes at all levels, it is imperative that eligible persons are vaccinated. The ministry reminds persons, 12 years and older, that beyond the end of May 2022, the Pfizer vaccine will no longer be available until further notice; only the Janssen vaccine will be available at the vaccination sites.

A high percentage of vaccinated persons, frequent hand washing and physical distancing are preventive measures that will keep us safer from COVID-19.

**End**