



COVID-19 VACCINATION ADVISORY

- 1. It is imperative to continue all the standard Covid-19 precautions post-vaccination, including wearing a face mask, maintaining social distance and continuing hand hygiene measures.**
- 2. Encourage caregivers, and other family members of patients with hematological malignancies and immunocompromised states, to get the Covid-19 vaccination.**
- 3. The antibodies from a previous infection may last for three months. However, there is no pre-specified interval between Covid-19 infection and vaccination. The vaccine can be administered after the resolution of symptoms.**
- 4. Intramuscular route for COVID vaccination remains the recommendation. Manual pressure can be applied to the vaccinated site for a more extended period in case of coagulation defects and thrombocytopenia.**
- 5. To adhere to the national policy on the type of vaccine. Taking either vaccine is a top priority - both Covishield and Covaxin are safe vaccines.**
- 6. Patients with cancers, in general, and those with hematological cancers as a group, appear to be at a higher risk of severe Covid-19.**
- 7. Despite the limited evidence on vaccination in patients with cancer, there is enough evidence to support immunization with vaccines, in general, and it remains recommended by experts.**
- 8. Currently available vaccines do work against the new virus variants, although they may be less effective**
- 9. Post COVID vaccination, antibody assessment is not routinely recommended. Many commercial assays look for antibodies to the nucleocapsid antigen. Vaccination induces only spike antibodies.**
- 10. Viral vector vaccines are safe to administer in patients with hematological malignancies because the virus vector e.g. the adenovirus vector used in the Covishield vaccine cannot replicate.**