



Authority	Honourable Minister of Health
Type	Decision
Number	09
Category	COVID-19: vaccination
Start date	3 February 2022

### **DECISION 09. BOOSTER DOSES OF COVID-19 VACCINES**

I, Mr Silas Bule Melve, Minister of Health, by virtue of the Public Health Act [Cap. 234] and amendments thereof, and all other enabling powers, hereby confirm the following decision:

1. In clarification and extension of Decision 07, an additional dose of WHO EUL listed COVID-19 vaccines shall be made available to the following eligible groups with immediate effect:
  - a. Those 18 years and over who are most exposed to infection with SARS-CoV-2, including healthcare and frontline workers, and who have completed their primary COVID-19 vaccine series.
  - b. Those 18 years and over who are most vulnerable to severe COVID-19 diseases, including the elderly 55 years and above and those with underlying conditions (including immunocompromised individuals), and who have completed their primary COVID-19 vaccine series.
  - c. Those 18 years and over who will travel overseas from Vanuatu and intend to return within a twelve-month period, and who have completed their primary COVID-19 vaccine series.
2. The third dose can be issued on or after 5 months has elapsed since the final dose of the primary COVID-19 vaccine series was received.
3. In accordance with (1a), it is mandatory that all those personnel who will support repatriation flights or inbound sea vessels to be received to Vanuatu in the month of

February 2022 come forward immediately for their third dose if the condition stipulated in (2) is met.

4. At present, the third dose administered to individuals shall be of the same vaccine product as received by that individual as for the primary series. However, this may be subject to change considering recommendations of the WHO Strategic Advisory Group of Experts on Immunization (SAGE) and the National Immunization Coordination Committee, at the discretion and decision of the Ministry of Health.
5. Any extension of eligible populations for booster doses will be communicated by the Ministry of Health in due course.

This Decision comes into effect on 3 February 2022 and shall remain valid during the period of the Public Health Emergency for COVID-19, or as amended in writing by the Minister of Health or the Health Emergency Advisory Committee based on the evolving situation. This decision replaces any other previous decision or decisions by the same authority regarding the same topic.

**Signed**



Honourable Silas Bule Melve  
Minister of Health

**Dated**

14 February 2022