

Message from SeaVax Team dated 11 November 2021

On 30 September 2021, Singapore Shipping Association (SSA), collaborated with PSA and the Fullerton Health Group (FHG), in setting up a vaccination (SeaVax) centre in Singapore for seafarers, as a response to the urgent need to vaccinate seafarers. The initial pilot programme, SeaVax, supported by the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA) and the Singapore Shipping Tripartite Resilience (SG-STAR) Fund, offered vaccination to ocean-going seafarers undertaking crew change in the port of Singapore.

The lukewarm reception to SeaVax by the industry after its launch called for a pressing industry engagement to gather feedback. The stringent requirements for seafarers to be eligible for the programme was the main concern which deterred many from signing up SeaVax. In response, SSA led conversations with MPA and the multi-ministry taskforce (MTF) on how to improve the initial pilot programme to SeaVax 2.0.

With the approval from relevant government agencies, the changes to the operational flows and terms of eligibility of SeaVax 2.0 are as follows:

1. No changes to the Tanjong Pagar Terminal (TPT) vaccination centre
2. Sign-On Crew (open to crew joining vessel same day, or having a stay in dedicated holding facilities and joining vessel later)
3. Crew onboard vessels at PSA or Jurong Port (JP) terminals and vessels in Shipyards (regardless of no. of days inside shipyards)
4. Crew onboard vessels at anchorages
5. For point 3 and 4, only crew who are planning to be vaccinated will take ART tests before disembarking from vessel to get to the vaccination centre at TPT
6. Immigration & Checkpoints Authority (ICA) will issue special pass for crew to disembark, in order to get to the TPT vaccination centre
7. Ship owner/ manager/ agent to ensure that crew who requires visa have a valid visa before disembarking the vessel
8. Current crew change procedures in terms of safe bubble transportation will be complied for crew going on land transport to TPT vaccination centre
9. Simplified process (online application)
10. Crew can receive vaccination (either 1st dose, 2nd dose, or 3rd dose as a booster dose) as long as the interval period between doses is met, and acknowledged on the application form with regards to the crew making this informed decision and its indemnity
11. Industry to submit/ provide forecasts for crew to be vaccinated for SSA to manage proper planning to optimise resource (timing to meet crew vaccination timeslots, mobilising vaccination teams, and drawing of vaccines) through this link: <https://forms.gle/hggWW7RiPURzzQB88>

Participation in the vaccination programme is on voluntary basis. There is no discrimination in regards to which country risk listing the ships are arriving from. Companies and seafarers will need to submit their applications, at least three (3) days before the crew arrives in Singapore.

For more information, please refer to the Guidebook on Seafarers Vaccination in the Port of Singapore which can be accessed via this link:

<https://www.ssa.org.sg/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Guidebook-on-Seafarers-Vaccination-in-the-Port-of-Singapore.pdf>

To register for SeaVax 2.0, please visit the link below:

<https://go.gov.sg/mpa-icc-seavax>

For crew onboard vessels at shipyard who will be staying for at least 30 days, ship owner/ manager/ agent can apply for their crew's vaccination at:

<https://go.gov.sg/mpa-edb-seavaxp1>

Thank you for taking this step forward to protect our seafarers and encourage them to be vaccinated.

Should you have further queries on the above, please email seavax@ssa.org.sg.