

**Press Information Bureau
Government of India
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**

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COVID-19: Myth vs. Facts

Media reports claiming that Expired Vaccines are being Administered in India are False and Misleading CDSCO had earlier approved Extension of shelf life of Covaxin and Covishield vaccines to 12 months and 9 months, respectively

There have been some media reports alleging that expired vaccines are being administered in India under its national COVID-19 vaccination programme. This is false and misleading and based on incomplete information.

The Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) on 25th October 2021, in response to M/s Bharat Biotech International Limited's letter no: BBIL/RA/21/567 has approved the extension of shelf life of Covaxin (Whole Virion, Inactivated Coronavirus Vaccine) from 9 months to 12 months. Similarly, the shelf life of Covishield has been extended by the National Regulator from 6 months to 9 months on 22nd February 2021.

The shelf life of vaccines is extended by the National Regulator based on comprehensive analysis and examination of stability study data furnished by the vaccine manufacturers.

MV/AL

HFW/MythsVsFacts-Covaxin Shelf Life/3rd January2022/4

COVAXIN® SHELF-LIFE EXTENSION

RE-EMPHASIZING OUR CARE FOR OUR ENVIRONMENT

- ▶ **COVAXIN® Shelf life up to 12 Months:** COVAXIN® is approved for use under the 28-day multi-dose vial policy from Drugs Controller General of India and the WHO Emergency Use Listing (WHO EUL). The CDSCO has recently approved the extension of COVAXIN® shelf life up to 12 months from the date of manufacture. This approval of shelf-life extension is based on the availability of additional stability data, which was submitted to CDSCO. With the shelf-life extension, hospitals can now utilize the stock which was nearing the expiry and avoid vaccine wastage.
- ▶ **COVAXIN® Open Vial is stable at 2 to 8°C for 28 days:** Opened vials of COVAXIN® can be stored at 2-8°C for up to 28 days and are not required to be discarded immediately in a day or at the end of immunization session.
- ▶ **20 Dose vial:** We believe in doing our bit to care for our environment, the multidose vial policy saves money for procurement agencies by reducing the cold chain logistics and management. Thereby reducing the carbon footprint, costs related to open vial wastage, cold chain distribution, cold chain storage, biomedical waste disposal, etc.
- ▶ **Eco-Friendly:** Most importantly, we believe in being environmentally friendly by reducing the quantum of packing materials and single-use plastics that are utilized in vaccines manufacturing, storage, distribution, and disposal.

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