राजेश भूषण, आईएएस
सचिव

RAJESH BHUSHAN, IAS
SECRETARY

भारत सरकार
स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण विभाग
स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय
**Government of India
Department of Health and Family Welfare
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**

DO No. 2061200/2021/Immunization
22nd March 2021

COVID-19 vaccination drive in India has completed 65 days during which we have been able to vaccinate 3.75 crore beneficiaries of which 75 lakh beneficiaries have completed the two dose schedule of vaccination 4-6 weeks apart as per the recommendation of NEGVAC.

2.   In view of the emerging scientific evidence, the interval between two doses of a specific COVID-19 vaccine i.e. COVISHIELD, has been revisited by National Technical Advisory Group on Immunization (NTAGI) and subsequently by NEGVAC in its 20th meeting during which the recommendation has been revised to provide 2nd dose of COVISHIELD at 4-8 weeks' interval after 1st dose instead of earlier practiced interval of 4-6 weeks.

3.   MoHFW, Government of India has since accepted the recommendations of NTAGI and NEGVAC. Therefore, the States & UTs are advised to ensure 2nd dose of COVISHIELD to beneficiaries within this stipulated time interval of 4-8 weeks after 1st dose. Keeping the existing scientific evidence in view, it appears that protection is enhanced if the second dose of COVISHIELD is administered between 6-8 weeks, but not later than stipulated period of 8 weeks.

4.   I request you to kindly instruct the concerned officials to undertake necessary steps to widely disseminate the message of revised dosing interval amongst programme managers, vaccinators and recipients of COVISHIELD vaccine and ensure adherence of revised dosing interval. **Please take note that this decision of revised time interval between two doses is applicable only to COVISHIELD and NOT to COVAXIN Vaccine.**

Yours sincerely

(Rajesh Bhushan)

Chief Secretary, All States & UTs

Copy to: Additional Chief Secretary /Principal Secretary / Secretary (Health)
All States & UTs

(Rajesh Bhushan)