WHO warns against mixing and matching Covid vaccines

WHO warns against mixing and matching Covid vaccines (The Tribune: 20210713)


The World Health Organization's chief scientist on Monday advised against people mixing and matching Covid-19 vaccines from different manufacturers, calling it a "dangerous trend" since there was little data available about the health impact.

"It's a little bit of a dangerous trend here. We are in a data-free, evidence-free zone as far as mix and match," Soumya Swaminathan told an online briefing.

"It will be a chaotic situation in countries if citizens start deciding when and who will be taking a second, a third and a fourth dose."

Pfizer to discuss vaccine booster with US officials on Monday

People's antibody levels jump five- to 10-fold after a third dose: Pfizer's Dr. Mikael Dolsten(The Tribune: 20210713)


Pfizer to discuss vaccine booster with US officials on Monday
Pfizer says it plans to meet with top US health officials Monday to discuss the drugmaker’s request for federal authorization of a third dose of its COVID-19 vaccine as President Joe Biden’s chief medical adviser acknowledged that “it is entirely conceivable, maybe likely” that booster shots will be needed.

The company said it was scheduled to have the meeting with the Food and Drug Administration and other officials Monday, days after Pfizer asserted that booster shots would be needed within 12 months.

Pfizer’s Dr. Mikael Dolsten told The Associated Press last week that early data from the company’s booster study suggests people’s antibody levels jump five- to 10-fold after a third dose, compared to their second dose months earlier — evidence it believes supports the need for a booster.

On Sunday, Dr. Anthony Fauci didn’t rule out the possibility but said it was too soon for the government to recommend another shot. He said the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the FDA did the right thing last week by pushing back against Pfizer’s assertion with their statement that they did not view booster shots as necessary “at this time.” Fauci said clinical studies and laboratory data have yet to fully bear out the need for a booster to the current two-shot Pfizer and Moderna vaccines or the one-shot Johnson & Johnson regimen.

“Heart now, given the data and the information we have, we do not need to give people a third shot,” he said. “That doesn’t mean we stop there. … There are studies being done now ongoing as we speak about looking at the feasibility about if and when we should be boosting people.”

He said it was quite possible in the coming months “as data evolves” that the government may urge a booster based on such factors as age and underlying medical conditions. “Certainly it is entirely conceivable, may be likely at some time, we will need a boost,” Fauci said.

Monday’s planned meeting between Pfizer and US health officials was first reported by The Washington Post.

Currently, only about 48% of the US population is fully vaccinated. Some parts of the country have far lower immunisation rates, and in those places, the delta variant is surging. Last week, Dr Rochelle Walensky, the CDC director, said that’s leading to “two truths” — highly immunised swaths of America are getting back to normal while hospitalizations are rising in other places.

Fauci said it was inexplicable that some Americans are so resistant to getting a vaccine when scientific data show how effective it is in staving off COVID-19 infections and hospitalizations, and he was dismayed by efforts to block making vaccinations more accessible, such as Biden’s suggestion of door-to-door outreach.
Gov. Asa Hutchinson, R-Ark., agreed Sunday that there is vaccine resistance in Southern and rural states like his because “you have that more conservative approach, scepticism about government.” Describing his efforts to boost vaccinations in his state, which is seeing rising infections, Hutchinson said “no one wants an agent knocking on a door,” but "we do want those that do not have access otherwise to make sure they know about it.” The grassroots component of the federal vaccination campaign has been in operation since April when supplies of shots began outpacing demand. It was outlined and funded by Congress in the $1.9 trillion COVID-19 relief bill passed in March and overwhelmingly is carried out by local officials and private-sector workers and volunteers.

Rep. Adam Kinzinger, R-Ill., blasted opposition to vaccination efforts from some GOP lawmakers as “absolute insanity.”

He said House Republican leader Kevin McCarthy of California and others in the party need to speak out against “these absolute clown politicians playing on your vaccine fears for their own selfish gain.”

Fauci appeared on CNN’s “State of the Union,” ABC's “This Week” and CBS' "Face the Nation"; Hutchinson spoke on ABC, and Kinzinger was on CNN. (AP)

**India sees 42,766 new Covid cases, 1,206 more deaths**

The active cases comprise 1.48 per cent of the total infections and the national Covid recovery rate stands at 97.2 per cent(The Tribune: 20210713)


India has logged 42,766 new coronavirus infections taking the total tally to 3,07,95,716, while the active cases have declined to 4,55,033, according to the Union Health Ministry data updated on Saturday.

The death toll has climbed to 4,07,145, with 1,206 fresh fatalities. The active cases comprise 1.48 per cent of the total infections and the national Covid recovery rate stands at 97.2 per cent, the data updated at 8 am showed.

As many as 19,55,225 tests were conducted on Friday, taking the total cumulative tests conducted so far for detection of Covid in the country to 42,90,41,970, while the daily positivity rate was recorded at 2.19 per cent.

It has been less than three per cent for 19 consecutive days, the ministry said, adding that the weekly positivity rate has declined to 2.34 per cent.
The number of people who have recuperated from the disease surged to 2,99,33,538, while the case fatality rate stands at 1.32 per cent, the data stated.

Cumulative vaccine doses administered so far has reached 37.21 crore under the nationwide vaccination drive.

The 1,206 new fatalities include 738 from Maharashtra, 130 from Kerala and 68 from Karnataka.

A total of 4,07,145 deaths have been reported so far in the country, including 1,25,034 from Maharashtra, 35,731 from Karnataka, 33,322 from Tamil Nadu, 25,011 from Delhi, 22,689 from Uttar Pradesh, 17,886 from West Bengal and 16,168 from Punjab. PTI

Third Wave (The Asian Age: 20210713)

Opp. targets UP over draft population bill

State govt should tell how many legitimate & illegitimate children its ministers have: Khurshid

Lucknow, July 12: Opposition parties have hit out at the Uttar Pradesh government over the proposed draft bill on population control, with the SP terming it as an “election propaganda” while a Congress leader asked the state government to tell how many “legitimate and illegitimate children” its ministers have.

The remarks come a day after the UP Population Policy 2021-2030 was unveiled by CM Yogi Adityanath to steady the growing population in the state and reduce maternal and infant deaths in a time-bound manner.

The 36-page policy document mentions that “efforts would be made to ensure there is a population balance among various communities in the state. Extensive campaigns would be run in communities, groups, and geographical areas where fertility rates were higher.”

A draft of the UP population control bill has been uploaded on the state law commission website, wording the bill as a part of the BJP’s “election propaganda” ahead of the Assembly polls, SP MP from Samastipur, Shafiqur Rahman Barq, said the state government should ban marriages if it wants to stabilise the rising population.

“If (draft) bill is an election propaganda. They (BJP) look at everything from a political angle. They just want to win elections and don’t take any decision in the interest of the people. Since Assembly election is coming, they are concerned about it. By the grace of Allah, we will not let them win,” Mr Barq said on Sunday evening.

Farukhabad, Congress leader Salman Khurshid said, “Before making the law government should tell how many legitimate and illegitimate children its ministers have.”

“Politicians should declare how many children they have. I will also declare how many I have and then it should be discussed,” he told reporters on Sunday.

When asked to elaborate on his statement on legitimate and illegitimate children, he said, “Those who consider it wrong should talk to me.”

Leader of the Opposition in the state Assembly Ram Govind Chowdhury charged that the state government had failed on all fronts be it law and order or providing employment.”

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Population Control Law (The Asian Age: 20210713)

Nitish: Making law to control population won’t be sufficient

NAYEEN AZAD
PATNA, JULY 12

Bihar chief minister Nitish Kumar’s stand on population control policy is likely to create a flutter in state politics.

On Monday while talking to reporters on the issue he said, “In my opinion just making a law to control population won’t be sufficient. When women will be educated the fertility rate will start decreasing”.

His statement has come at a time when there is an ongoing debate over the population policy 2021-2030 unveiled by Uttar Pradesh chief minister Yogi Adityanath on Sunday.

“Every state is free to bring their policy but my view is very clear on the issue. It’s not about just about one community but educating women will benefit everyone. It was a eureka moment for my government when data showed decreased fertility rate among educated women,” the CM said on the sidelines of his Janata Darbar on Monday.

Reacting to the issue of common civil code Mr Kumar said, “If laws are the same for everyone then there should be a liquor prohibition in all the states.”

Mr Kumar’s statement has triggered sharp reactions from across the political spectrum in Bihar. BJP spokesperson Nikhil Anand said, “The uncontrolled growth of population is a serious issue. We appreciate the way the UP government is addressing the issue. But policymaking is the prerogative of the CM and his Cabinet. It is the jurisdiction of concerned state government to take policy decisions.”

On the other hand, the Opposition BJD called the UP government’s population policy “a political stunt to divert public attention from real issues ahead of the Assembly elections”.
**Covid jab in pregnancy**

**Covid jab in pregnancy: Things expectant mothers should know before, during and after the vaccine (The Indian Express: 20210713)**


The day before vaccination, keep yourself hydrated. Have a good 8 hours sleep and have a light meal just before going for the shot.

Covid vaccine, Covid-19 vaccine for pregnant women, pregnancy and Covid-19 vaccine, can pregnant women take the Covid vaccine, taking Covid vaccine during pregnancy, dos and don'ts for taking Covid vaccine during pregnancy, indian express newsAfter taking the vaccine, wait for at least 30 minutes, because if there is any adverse effect, it will appear in the first 30 minutes. (Photo: Getty/Thinkstock)

In India, Covid vaccination drives have finally started for pregnant women. The Union Health Ministry recently stated that pregnant women “can and should” get the Covid vaccine, and that they can now register on CoWIN or walk-in to the nearest vaccination centre to be inoculated.

While pregnant women are not more prone to the infection, it is a well known fact that if they catch it, their condition can deteriorate fast. This increases further risks associated with comorbidities like obesity, diabetes, and hypertension, says Delhi-based obstetrician and gynecologist Dr Amodita Ahuja.

And as a pregnant woman, while you may have some apprehensions about taking the vaccine, Dr Ahuja says it is advisable to be on the safer side by being “vigilant and keeping your gynecologist in loop so that they are prepared in case of any adverse effect”.

The doctor shares with indianexpress.com some things that expectant mothers must keep in mind before, during and after the Covid vaccination. Read on.

**ALSO READ** | How well do antibodies work against the Delta variant? Here’s what experts say

* The day before vaccination, keep yourself hydrated. Have a good 8 hours sleep and have a light meal just before going for the shot.

* Wear loose clothes, especially from the arms, so that the vaccine can be given easily.

* If you have any history of prior allergic reaction to any medication or previous vaccination dose, make sure to tell the concerned authorities at the center.

* While at the center, follow all Covid protocols like wearing a double mask. Don’t touch the front part of the mask, avoid touching surfaces, and maintain a social distance.
* After taking the vaccine, wait for at least 30 minutes, because if there is any adverse effect, it will appear in the first 30 minutes.

* After reaching home, if you experience symptoms like fever, body pains, headaches, joint pains, take a paracetamol after informing your gynecologist.

Covid vaccine, Covid-19 vaccine for pregnant women, pregnancy and Covid-19 vaccine, can pregnant women take the Covid vaccine, taking Covid vaccine during pregnancy, dos and don'ts for taking Covid vaccine during pregnancy, indian express news After taking the vaccine, take rest for the entire day and keep yourself hydrated. (Photo: Pixabay)

* If you have a sore forearm then applying a heat pack will provide a lot of relief.

ALSO READ | Cancer patients should get vaccinated without further delay: Doctors

* Continue your supplementation of iron, calcium. Along with that, take vitamin E and vitamin D and B12 supplementation, as they will help in faster recovery.

* Take rest for the entire day and keep yourself hydrated.

* Be mindful of certain adverse effects like shortness of breath, chest pain, swelling or pain in the limbs, small hemorrhages beneath the skin and beyond the vaccination site, severe or persistent headaches, persistent vomiting without any obvious reasons, blurred vision or pain in the eyes. These symptoms can be very similar to the pregnancy symptoms, but if they are persistent, contact your gynecologist immediately.

* If you are in your last trimester, take note of fetal movements. If, at any time, you feel the movements are less, rush to the hospital immediately.

* Though the long-term effects are not known, looking at the Covid situation, it is advisable for all pregnant women to take their jab as soon as possible.

**Public health**

**WHO issues new recommendations on human genome editing for advancement of public health (The Indian Express: 20210713)**


Two new companion reports released by the World Health Organisation (WHO) on Monday provide the first global recommendations to help establish human genome editing as a tool for public health with an emphasis on safety, effectiveness and ethics.
Dr Soumya Swaminathan, WHO Chief Scientist, told a virtual press conference that the forward-looking new reports result from the first broad, global consultation looking at somatic, germline and heritable human genome editing.

Potential benefits of human genome editing include faster and more accurate diagnosis, more targeted treatments and prevention of genetic disorders.

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Dr Soumya Swaminathan, WHO Chief Scientist, told a virtual press conference that the forward-looking new reports result from the first broad, global consultation looking at somatic, germline and heritable human genome editing. The consultation, which spanned over two years, involved hundreds of participants representing diverse perspectives from around the world, including scientists and researchers, patient groups, faith leaders and indigenous peoples.

“We want to encourage development of new techniques but this is the first time a global committee of 18 members has been brought together on this topic,” Dr Swaminathan said. The 18 members of the Committee worked for two years and developed several products and new initiatives. The governance framework on human genome editing, along with the recommendations of the Committee, form a set of two publications that provide advice and recommendations on appropriate institutional, national, regional and global governance mechanisms for human genome editing.

Potential benefits of human genome editing include new strategies for diagnosis, treatment and prevention of genetic disorders, new avenues to treat infertility, new ways to promote disease resistance, contribution to vaccine development and enhanced knowledge of human biology.

For instance, somatic gene therapies, which involve modifying a patient’s DNA to treat or cure a disease, have been successfully used to address HIV, sickle-cell disease and transthyretin amyloidosis. The technique could also vastly improve treatment for a variety of cancers. However, some risks exist, for example, with germline and heritable human genome editing, which alter the genome of human embryos and could be passed on to subsequent generations, modifying descendants’ traits.

The reports deliver recommendations on the governance and oversight of human genome editing in nine discrete areas, including human genome editing registries, international research and medical travel, illegal, unregistered, unethical or unsafe research, intellectual property, and education, engagement and empowerment.

The recommendations focus on systems-level improvements needed to build capacity in all countries to ensure that human genome editing is used safely, effectively and ethically. The reports also provide a new governance framework that identifies specific tools, institutions and
scenarios to illustrate practical challenges in implementing, regulating and overseeing research into the human genome.

The governance framework offers concrete recommendations for dealing with specific scenarios such as a hypothetical clinical trial of somatic human genome editing for sickle cell disease proposed to take place in West Africa, proposed use of somatic or epigenetic genome editing to enhance athletic performance, an imaginary clinic based in a country with minimal oversight of heritable human genome editing that offers these services to international clients following in vitro fertilization and preimplantation genetic diagnosis. “These new reports from WHO’s Expert Advisory Committee represent a leap forward for this area of rapidly emerging science,” Swaminathan said.

Coronavirus India LIVE updates

Coronavirus India LIVE updates: 32,906 new Covid-19 cases, lowest since March 16(The Indian Express: 20210713)


Coronavirus (Covid-19) India Live News Updates: The country's active caseload has declined to 4.32 lakh.

Coronavirus India LIVE updates: PM Modi to meet CMs of 8 northeastern states todayBeneficiaries at a vaccination center in Karave Gaon in Navi Mumbai on Monday. (Express Photo by Amit Chakravarty)

Coronavirus India Live Updates: India reported 32,906 new Covid-19 cases on Tuesday, the lowest since March 16, according to data from the Union Health Ministry.

The country’s active caseload has declined to 4.32 lakh. The recovery rate has increased to 97.28 per cent, the ministry data stated.

The health ministry said 2020 deaths were reported on Monday. Madhya Pradesh added 1,478 previously uncounted deaths to its tally. Maharashtra reported 148 deaths while Kerala had 100.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will have a virtual meeting with the Chief Ministers of the eight Northeastern states on Tuesday to discuss the Covid-19 situation in the region. More than three out of every five districts that reported a test positivity rate of more than 10 per cent over the past week are in the Northeast.

Data tracked by the Union Health Ministry show that of the 58 districts that reported a positivity rate higher than 10 per cent between July 5 and July 11, as many as 37 were from the Northeast.
Delhi News

Can’t limit CM Advocates Welfare Scheme to lawyers with Delhi voter IDs: HC

DERC asks Centre to reallocate Delhi’s power from NTPC Dadri

Delhi HC directs Saket Gokhale to delete tweets against Lakshmi Puri

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While absolute numbers in the Northeast are small compared to the larger Indian states, the overall weekly positivity in India was only 2.21 per cent as of Sunday.

LIVE BLOG

India reports 32,906 new Covid-19 cases; active cases drop to 4.32 lakh; PM Modi to meet CMs of 8 northeastern states today; Madhya Pradesh adds 1,478 Covid ‘backlog’ deaths to tally; Delhi forces closure of markets flouting norms. Follow this space for the latest updates.

12:08 (IST)

13 JUL 2021

Disallow Kanwar Yatra to avoid 3rd wave of Covid-19 pandemic: IMA to Uttarakhand CM

Indian Medical Association (IMA), Uttarakhand Tuesday urged Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami to disallow the proposed Kanwar Yatra (July – August) in order to control the occurrence of the 3rd wave of the coronavirus pandemic, news agency ANI reported.

Delhi cracks lockdown whip, forces closure of markets flouting norms

As the Capital’s Covid count continues to dip — Delhi recorded 45 cases, the lowest in 15 months, on Monday — and with lockdown restrictions eased considerably, markets and public spaces across the city have drawn huge crowds, forcing authorities to crack down.

Over the past two weeks, at least nine markets, including Lajpat Nagar, Gaffar Market, Sadar Bazar and Laxmi Nagar, were forced to shut down for flouting social distancing and other Covid protocol, though they were subsequently reopened after assurances from market associations and other stakeholders.

While the government attempts to strike a balance between resuming economic activity and not risking another surge in cases, the caution is also linked to the fact that Delhi’s peaks have been far sharper than elsewhere — in April this year, the Capital recorded 28,395 cases in a single day, more than any other city.

Delhi sees fewest Covid cases in nearly 15 months
With 45 cases, Delhi recorded the lowest number of Covid cases over 24 hours in nearly 15 months on Monday.

The city has been maintaining a positivity rate below 0.2% since June 23. While Monday saw the lowest number of positive cases in this stretch, the positivity rate on Sunday was actually lower at 0.07%. But because a lower number of tests were conducted in the last 24 hours since it was the weekend, Monday saw 45 cases with a positivity rate of 0.08%.

India reports 32,906 new Covid-19 cases, lowest since March 16

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After the photos, the numbers: over 32,000 in Nainital for weekend, 20,000 in Mussoorie

After the photos of crowds at hill stations without masks or social distancing, which prompted the Centre to issue an alert, the numbers are out.

Official figures show 35,425 tourists reached the outskirts of Nainital and 32,000 more travelled to Mussoorie in Uttarakhand over the last weekend as Covid figures dipped across the country.

Of these, 32,900 tourists were allowed to enter Nainital and 20,000 to Mussoorie while the rest were turned back on various grounds, ranging from not carrying a Covid-negative report or proof of hotel booking to failure to register on the state government-mandated portal.

India should have done much better during second wave of Covid: Adani

Cautioning people from falling prey to “voices that demoralise our nation”, Gautam Adani, chairman of the Adani Group, on Monday said India “should have done much better” while handling the second wave of Covid-19 pandemic.

In his address to shareholders, Adani said, “We must admit that every life lost, is a tragedy.

Undoubtedly, our country should have done much better, especially during the deadly wave two. However, as nations of the world marshal their resources to fight the pandemic, I see India being targeted by several critics for not doing more to protect its citizens, especially in vaccination.”

Delhi Police fly drone over crowded Sarojini Nagar market to check Covid rules, in New Delhi on Sunday. (Express photo by Praveen Khanna)
Delhi cracks lockdown whip, forces closure of markets flouting norms

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**Coronavirus Third Wave (Hindustan: 20210713)**

https://epaper.livehindustan.com/imageview_918278_126311036_4_1_13-07-2021_0_i_1_sf.html
तीसरी लहर दरवाजे पर, सतर्क हो जाएं: आईएमए

नई दिल्ली | एन.जी.सी

डॉक्टरों के संगठन इंडियन मेडिकल एसोसिएशन (आईएमए) ने कोरोना की तीसरी लहर को लेकर चेतावनी दी है। आईएमए ने कहा, तीसरी लहर का आना निश्चित है और यह बिलकुल करीब है, इसलिए लापरवाही न करें और सतर्क रहें। बीड़ न जुटाएं, पर्यटन कुछ समय के लिए टाल दे क्योंकि ऐसी ही चीजों से तीसरी लहर चपेट में ले सकती है।

आईएमए ने सोमवार को एक बयान में कहा कि पर्यटकों का आगमन, तीर्थयात्राएं, धार्मिक उत्सव जैसे लेकिन कुछ और महत्वपूर्ण इवेंट्स किया जा सकता है। वैश्विक साक्ष्य और किसी भी महामारी के इतिहास से यह पता चलता है कि तीसरी लहर अवस्थानों और आसन के बहुत हैं जिनकी नज़कत में, देश के कई हिस्सों में सरकारें और लोग ढ़ंगाने बरते हैं। आईएमए ने कहा, बीड़ जुटने को इजाजत देना और लोगों को टीका लगाने और इस भीड़ में शामिल होने की आशा नहीं है।
दिल्ली में कोरोना टीका की कमी का असर किया दिखाया जा रहा है। अधिकारियों के अनुसार लोगों के लिए लोकसभा टीका के लिए 9 जनवरी को स्थानीय अधिकारियों के द्वारा लागू होने वाले निर्देशों के अंतर्गत टीका का लगाने के लिए लोगों को टीका की मांग करने के लिए महत्वपूर्ण है।

टीकाकरण केंद्र

टीका के लिए सूचीमात्रक संख्या में टीका का लगाने की सूची में तथा टीकाकरण केंद्र के निर्देश के प्रारूप में टीका की मांग है।

लोगों को टीकाकरण को पहले से ही अच्छे समय में करना चाहिए। अन्य संचारित तरीकों में तथा अन्य विज्ञापनों के माध्यम से लोगों को टीका की मांग की सूची में शामिल करना है।

दिल्ली में दिल्ली के प्रमुख टीका की हुई अभियान

लोगों को टीका की मांग की सूची में शामिल करना है।

लोगों को टीका की मांग की सूची में शामिल करना है।