



SeaVax FAQ

General Questions

1. What is this SeaVax program that we hear in industry circles?

SeaVax program is an initiative that is being led by SSA, and supported by MPA, and STAR Fund (founding members include: MPA, SSA, SMOU, SOS, IMEC, ITF, and ICS).

This initiative is set to provide COVID-19 vaccinations to ocean-going seafarers in the port of Singapore.

2. When is the SeaVax initiative operational?

For the enhanced phase of SeaVax program, it is operational on 15 November 2021.

3. What is different or new with the enhanced phase of the SeaVax program

The enhanced phase now provides vaccination to the following:

- Crew onboard Vessels at Anchorage
- Crew onboard Vessels at PSA and JP terminals (container and multi-purpose port terminals)
- Crew onboard Vessels that are in Shipyards
- Including Sign-On crew arriving from the Airport joining vessels

4. Has there been application for Crew to be vaccinated under the SeaVax program?

Yes, on the first day of operations, the vaccination centre has administered vaccine doses to 39 crew coming from the vessels at Anchorage, PSA terminal and shipyard.

There are ongoing applications and approvals, and the scheduling for crew vaccinations are underway.

5. How long does it take to vaccinate the crew?

With proper planning from the shipowner/ manager/ agent, a group of 10 crew can be vaccinated within two (2) hours (taking into consideration transportation time of crew, either via water taxi, launch boats, and land transport).

6. Is vaccination mandatory?

No, vaccination is not mandatory for all seafarers entering Singapore for crew change. The seafarer will express his/ her informed consent if s/ he agrees to be vaccinated.

In addition, the shipping company will provide the letter of undertaking to indemnify the Port of Singapore and its authorised agents/ parties who are providing the vaccination service. The letter of undertaking shall include medical insurance to cover for medical expenses and final repatriation of the seafarer should he/she requires medical care as a result of an anaphylactic reaction.

7. Is this offered to crew signing off and returning home?

Sign off crew returning to home country is not offered under this programme as they will be eligible for their home country vaccination program. We are focusing on crew onboard vessels who have yet to be vaccinated or require their 2nd or 3rd (booster) dose, and sign-on crew on arrival in Singapore to join vessels.

8. If I don't take the jab, will I be disqualified and will not be allowed to enter Singapore for signing-on roster?

Vaccination is not mandatory and not a condition to enter Singapore.

Crew can continue to sign on and enter Singapore but will need to meet the requirements for Crew Change found in the Singapore Crew Change guidebook that follows the prevailing Port Marine Circulars in force.

9. Do I have to go through my company/ agent to apply for SeaVax?

If a seafarer is interested in getting vaccinated, please indicate your intent to your company, your manning/crewing agent. As this is not a free vaccination, you will have to go through your company or agent to apply for the vaccination on your behalf. Alternatively, you may email and apply directly to seavax@ssa.org.sg

10. What is the vaccine being offered in this programme?

Currently the Vaccination Centre is offering **Moderna** vaccine. The STAR Fund is buying directly from the MOH at costs.

11. What are the dose regimes being offered for crew?

Crew will be able to get the following:

- 1st dose
- 2nd dose (if they meet the WHO guidelines on interval period from 1st dose)
The medical service provider recommends that 2nd dose can be taken under 90 days from the 1st dose
- 3rd booster dose (as long as they meet the WHO guidelines of at least six (6) months from the 2nd dose)

12. I prefer to have the Johnson & Johnson (J&J) vaccine, as it is simply just 1 dose.

We do not offer J&J vaccine as it is not approved for use in Singapore by the Ministry of Health (MOH).

If you have taken the J&J vaccine, the MOH follows the current WHO guidelines that one (1) dose of J&J is considered to have completed the primary course. You are eligible to take the Moderna dose as a booster shot, so long as you have passed 180 days from your J&J shot.

Currently, one (1) dose of J&J vaccine is considered sufficient. J&J have applied to WHO for 2nd dose approval given the data coming in which shows that efficacy is reduced over time, and 2nd dose for J&J vaccine is needed to sustain efficacy levels.

So, you may still require a 2nd dose for J&J vaccine later.

13. What about Sinovac?

If you have received two (2) doses of Sinovac, you will be considered to have completed the primary series. You will be allowed to take one (1) dose of Moderna as long as it has been 90 days after you completed the primary series.

If one (1) dose of Sinovac was taken, you would need to take two (2) doses of Moderna vaccine, spaced 28 days apart, to be considered sufficient. You are still allowed to take your 2nd dose under this programme as long as it has been 28 days since your Sinovac dose.

14. What about other vaccines like Sputnik?

As with any other vaccines that are not included in the WHO EUL, Sputnik is not a vaccine included under the WHO EUL, it is currently not recognized towards being vaccinated.

You can still take the vaccine offered in Singapore and it will be considered as 1st dose under the WHO EUL approved dose regime.

15. Is the vaccine free?

No, it is not. The vaccines are purchased using the limited funds provided by the stakeholders of the STAR Fund.

The shipping companies will pay for the vaccination costs, and the monies will be recycled back to the fund to purchase future batches of vaccines. This is a not-for-profit self-funding model for the industry.

16. Why is the vaccination not free unlike other countries?

We are aware that the United States of America (USA) started to offer “free vaccinations” to seafarers, and that a small number of European states are doing the same. However, it is important to note these countries who can offer “free vaccines”, do so because they have excess vaccines well above their national community needs.

You still pay even if it is “free”.

We noted that there are still costs borne by the shipowners during such “free vaccinations”. These are costs associated with hiring driver, a transportation bus or van, and an escort in these countries. Translated, these costs are comparable to what the shipowner will pay in Singapore (see below) per crew per dose.

Singapore does not have excess vaccines unlike the USA, Canada, and the other European nations.

We are unable to get access to free vaccines from the Singapore national vaccine pool, but we can purchase directly from the Singapore government so that we can have immediate access.

The vaccination centre that is set up is a **dedicated** vaccination centre for Seafarers only. This is to comply with MOH regulations to have a controlled environment for safe measures management. This dedicated facility carries fixed costs and needs to be recovered to sustain operations for us to offer vaccinations to **ALL** international seafarers.

17. What is the cost of Vaccination?

Vaccination Costs includes the vaccine costs, and the vaccination centre’s operating expenses (medical team and the medical consumables, bio-hazard management, power utilities etc...).

Companies are expected to pay **SGD185 (approx. USD150)** per dose per seafarer.

Over time, we will expect the cost per dose per seafarer to reduce as the volume of vaccinations increases.

Application Queries

18. Who are eligible?

Currently, the SeaVax program is offering vaccinations for all crew who is

- a. Onboard Vessels that are in Singapore Anchorage
- b. Onboard Vessels that are berthed at PSA terminals
- c. Onboard Vessels that are berthed at Jurong Port terminals
- d. Onboard Vessels that are in Shipyards
- e. All Sign-on Crew arriving from the airport and joining their vessels in Singapore

19. If my vessel departure time is scheduled for the next day morning, will I still be eligible for vaccination?

Yes, if you are scheduled for departure within **24 hours** from vaccination.

20. How do I apply?

You may visit <https://go.gov.sg/mpa-icc-seavax> to apply.

Application for Crew Vaccination is being integrated as part of the Crew Change application process. There are three (3) forms to be submitted (see the next question) and we recommend that all Forms A, B, C to be submitted together. This is to streamline the application process.

21. What are the documents that I will need to prepare for the application?

Documents Required	Notes & Remarks:
1. Form A: Undertaking by the Company	Company acknowledges that it (i) will cover the cost of the vaccination and medical emergencies should the crew experience any adverse reaction to the vaccine which requires medical attention and/or hospitalisation, and repatriation of the crew. (ii) has informed the crew of the risks, benefits, and side effects of the vaccine and is voluntarily receiving the administration of the vaccine, and (iii) is aware that crew receiving the vaccine shall not perform any heavy-duty work over the next 7 days.
2. Form B: Crew's Pre-Assessment Form	Form to be completed <u>24 hours</u> prior to arrival to Singapore by medical doctor and can be carried out together with <u>Fit-To-Travel</u> requirements
3. Form C: Crew's Health Declaration Form	Form to be completed 24 hours prior to arrival to Singapore
4. Certificate of first dose of vaccination	For crew applying for his/her second dose
5. Proof of payment	
6. PSA Pass	Refer to the next question.

These documents are to be submitted to MPA as part of other required documents to obtain the Final-No-Objection.

22. Do I need a PSA pass to enter the Vaccination Centre at Tanjong Pagar Terminal (TPT)?

Singapore-based shipowners/ managers/ agents know that the port facility is a restricted access location. As the vaccination centre is in a secured port facility, there needs to be an entry permit. Without an entry pass, the van/ driver will not be allowed to enter the port facility.

In Singapore, there are specific and listed transported companies who are qualified to pick up seafarers at the airport. These companies will have to apply for entry permit into TPT. Ship managers / agents based in Singapore are familiar with this process.

Vaccine Queries

23. What is the vaccine being offered?

Currently, the SeaVax initiative is using the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine.

24. Will my crew be eligible for a 2nd shot and 3rd (booster) shot?

Yes. They will be eligible if they have met the WHO recommended time interval between the 1st and 2nd dose. (See #11-#13 above)

25. How do my crew come back for 2nd shot or 3rd (booster) dose?

Shipowner/ managers/ agents can plan for these scenarios, if the ship sailing schedule includes a return to Singapore, and if there is crew onboard who meets the recommended WHO time interval for 2nd dose or 3rd (booster) dose. (See #11-#13 above)

26. I have other vaccines as my 1st shot, can I qualify for this as my second shot to complete my vaccination status?

Yes, crew can mix their 2nd vaccine dose, only if the 1st dose is a mRNA vaccine and they have met the WHO recommended timing interval. For other non-mRNA vaccine, please see to #11-#13 and #14 above.

27. Will I get a certificate to show that I have been vaccinated?

Yes, you will receive a vaccination certificate, in English-language, stating the date of vaccination and the type of vaccination, along with your personal details and your passport ID details.

28. Is this vaccination certificate accepted worldwide?

This is dependent on the individual country's regulations. The vaccination certificate issued is the same certificate that the rest of the individuals (Singaporeans/ PRs/ etc.) received when they are vaccinated in Singapore.

29. I am not sure if I am medically fit to receive the vaccine, how do I find out?

Shipowners/ managers/ agents will arrange for a telemedicine and a supervised self-swab Antigen Rapid Test (ART) at least 24 hours before vaccination. Upon medically observed AG-results, the crew will disembark and proceed with their vaccination. Only crew who wished to be vaccinated will be assessed via Telemed and a supervised ART swab and is required to sign a health declaration form prior to their vaccination. Please be informed that vaccination may be refused or cancelled for medical or any other reasons after assessment.

Finances Queries

30. When do a company make payment for the vaccination?

Companies are to make pre-payments for vaccination for their seafarers. They will be paying via a Bank transfer to the bank account as stated in the forms (see #21 above). The bank transfer proof of payment will be submitted to the MPA with the crew change application and vaccination forms A, B, C.

The company shall indicate their company name and purpose as: SEAVAX, in the fund/ wire transfer document and indicate number of crew to be vaccinated. You may use abbreviation SVX if due to space limit. For example:

Alpha Agency SEAVAX or Alpha Agency SVX

Please refer to #17 for the cost of each vaccine per seafarer.

31. If in the event I suffer a severe reaction, who is paying for my medical fees?

The Singapore vaccine injury financial assistance scheme is not applicable to seafarers under this program. Should there be vaccine-related injuries, companies will need to bear such costs.

As such, shipping companies must complete and submit **Form A** to address this for the seafarer as part of their Seafarer Employment Agreement.

32. If my vessel/ flight is delayed/ cancelled, will my company receive a refund for the amount paid?

The SEAVAX program will issue a credit note (not a refund) if the ship/ flights are cancelled/ delayed, and the seafarer cannot make it to the vaccination centre. The shipowner/ manager/ agent must inform SSA at least 48hrs prior if there are changes. This is because of the timing and preparation of vaccines (drawing and dilution process), and the rostering of the medical team who is administering the vaccine. Refund may be issued on a case-by-case review

33. If upon arrival into Singapore, I am unwell, will my company receive a refund for the amount paid?

The SeaVax program will issue a credit note (not a refund) to the company if the seafarer is certified unwell or unfit to be vaccinated. Do note that once the vaccine is out of its storage unit, it will not be able to be re-stored for future use, hence, shipowners/ managers/ agents must inform SSA at least 48hrs in advance. Refund may be issued on a case-by-case review.

34. If my crew suddenly decided not to be vaccinated, will my company receive a refund for the amount paid?

The SeaVax program will issue a credit note (not a refund) to the company. Refund may be issued on a case-by-case review.

35. If my crew is denied or cancelled from vaccination, will my company receive a refund for the amount paid?

The SeaVax program will issue a credit note (not a refund) to the company. Refund may be issued on a case-by-case review

All Other Queries

36. Who should I contact if I have any other questions/ queries?

You can contact seavax@ssa.org.sg and please give our SeaVax team 2-3 working days to reply to any of your queries.