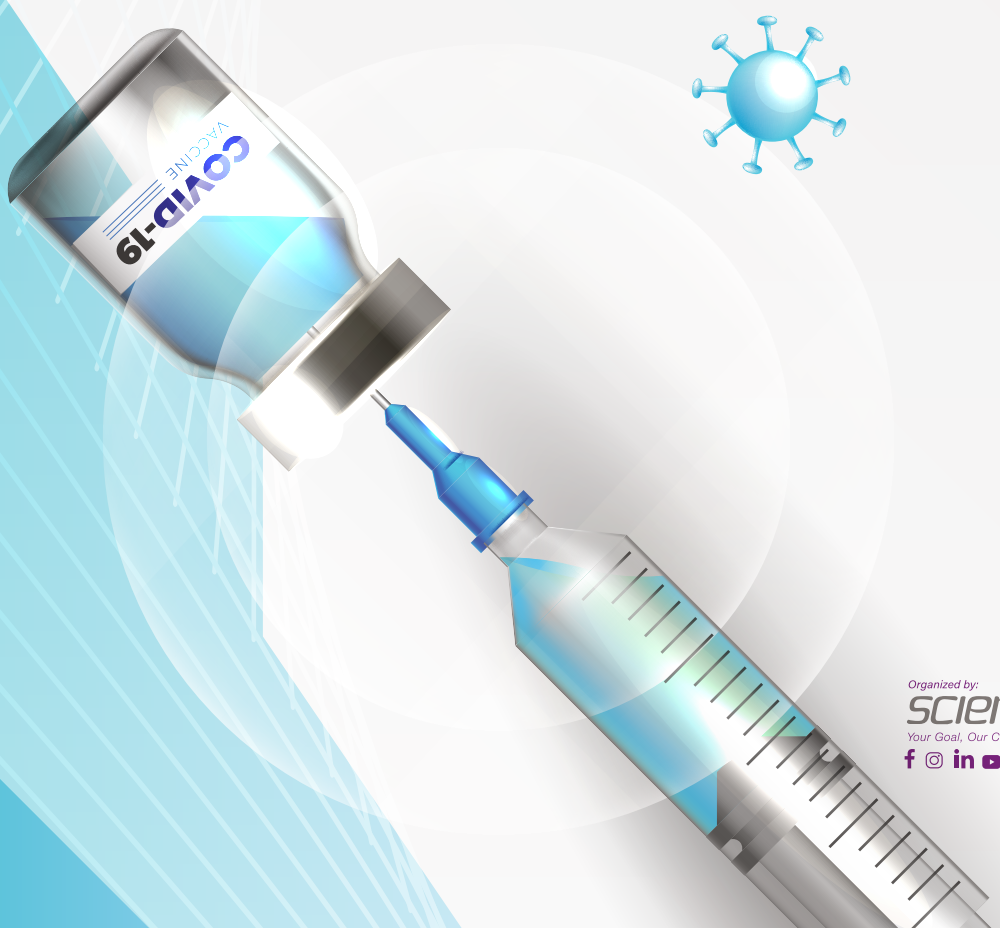
EVALUATION OF VACCINATION PROCESS AT VACCINATION CENTERS IN THE CONTEXT OF COVID-19: NATIONAL DESCRIPTIVE STUDY IN LEBANON

Webinar Briefing
8 June 2022



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PHARMACOVIGILANCE IN THE CONTEXT OF COVID-19 VACCINES
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Sharing the Experience

The Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) hosted on the 8th of June a webinar that featured a discussion on the experience of assessing the vaccination process at the COVID-19 vaccination centers. The webinar was organized by the National Pharmacovigilance Program and combined short presentations by specialists, starting with updates on COVID-19 vaccination in children (5-11 years old), followed by a structured discussion on a national descriptive study conducted by the PV team to evaluate the COVID-19 vaccination process at vaccination centers in Lebanon.

The panelists included: Dr. Rita Karam, Dr. Atika Berry, Dr. Abeer Zeitoun, and the Pharmacovigilance Team.

Dr. Karam opened the webinar by providing an introduction and presentation of the speakers. The targeted outcome was to share updates on findings and recommendations related to the vaccination process: Dr. Berry went over the fourth dose administration in people more than 12 years of age, the administration of vaccines in the age group 5 to 11 years, and the reporting of adverse events among individuals 5 through 11 years of age.

Moreover, a national descriptive study that evaluated the vaccination process at the COVID-19 centers was presented. The primary objective of the study was to evaluate vaccination centers immunizing against COVID-19 through on-site visits and to assess whether they were abiding by the guidelines (national and international). Different steps during the visits to the vaccination centers have been evaluated: transportation, handling and storage, vaccine preparation and reconstitution, pre-vaccination assessment, vaccine administration, and post-vaccination process. To overcome the gaps identified during the visits, recommendations for improvements were elaborated. Indeed, it was advised that vaccine vials should be stored in their original packaging until ready for administration. Vaccines and diluents should be clearly labeled in the storing units and vaccine temperature should be monitored at least twice daily. The proper hand hygiene should be maintained to prepare the vaccines, and documentation of the vaccine name, lot number, and time of preparation should be followed.

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Finally, Dr. Karam presented the role of the pharmacovigilance program which is to decrease medication and vaccine-related harm, build awareness on the importance of reporting adverse event following immunization, and to improve medication and vaccines safety. Health-care providers were also encouraged to be actively involved in the use of various means of reporting provided by the PV system.