

COVID-19 Vaccines for ASEAN countries.

One year has passed with the world tackling with COVID-2019, many countries worldwide are seeking for the remedy to this pandemic. Pharmaceutical companies and government authorities have incorporated to distribute the vaccines as much as possible to everyone. Six candidates are the most popular choices of vaccines: Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna, AstraZeneca-Oxford, Sputnik V, Sinovac, and Sino pharm. While the first four are from the western countries' companies, United States, Germany, United Kingdom and Russia, respectively, China, as the first country to experience the virus since 2019, has already developed the vaccines from both public company Sinovac and the state-owned company Sinopharm. These vaccines are the hope for many ASEAN countries to secure the region from this pandemic. The various vaccines are now on the clinical trials and many are waiting for each country FDA for approval.

Many countries in ASEAN do not rely on one source of vaccine, such as Singapore, which the government has signed Advance Purchase Agreements with Moderna, Pfizer-BioNTech and Sinovac, and is in discussions with a few other pharmaceutical companies¹, as well as Indonesia, which already secured a total of 125.5 million doses of the COVID-19 vaccines from the Chinese supplier but the government also has secured the deals with American company Novavac, AstraZeneca, and Pfizer.² Other countries are also waiting for the COVAX initiative, COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access from Gavi, to add more vaccines doses in their homeland for securing more capability of COVID-19 protection such as Laos that they will benefit from additional vaccines from COVAX alliances, apart from Sinopharm vaccines and Sputnik V vaccines that the government already stroke the deal.³

ACMM Perspective:

By 2020, many groups of researchers are racing to produce safe and effective vaccine against COVID-19. Even though vaccine development requires years to develop and testing, but, currently, we have 20 vaccine candidates testing in phase 3 (Final Stage) and other 85 vaccine candidates testing on animal as preclinical vaccine. Although, vaccine is one of the important tools to prevent ASEAN population from the spreading of COVID-19 but the side effects of vaccine, types of vaccine antigen and transportation options of vaccine are all the vital concerns for ASEAN countries to consider which vaccines are the most effective one. Good personal hygiene, face mask covering in public area and social distancing are still a crucial recommendation among this pandemic situation.

¹ gov.sg | [Securing Singapore's access to COVID-19 vaccines \(www.gov.sg\)](http://www.gov.sg)

² [Indonesia to get raw materials to produce 15m doses of vaccine from Chinese firm Sinovac , SE Asia News & Top Stories - The Straits Times](#)

³ [Laos Receives 2,000 Doses of Covid-19 Vaccine from China \(https://laotiantimes.com\)](https://laotiantimes.com)