To All Students

COVID-19 Vaccinations

COVID-19 vaccinations have begun in Japan in 2021. Waseda University is planning on starting vaccinations in early July. Before deciding whether to become vaccinated, make sure you understand the safety and efficacy of the vaccine. Each individual's decision as to whether to be vaccinated is respected. We request that there be no coercion of those around you to become vaccinated, or discrimination against those who are unvaccinated.

Benefits of getting a COVID-19 vaccine

1. Prevents the onset of symptoms such as fever and coughing (acquisition of individual immunity) and prevents you from becoming seriously ill.
2. When more than a given percentage of the population has immunity, even if someone is infected others are less likely to be infected (acquisition of herd immunity), making it possible to reduce the spread of infectious diseases, and indirectly protecting people who do not have immunity from infection.

    Vaccination of active university students will help prevent the spread of the disease to the elderly, who are at higher risk of becoming seriously ill, and will also reduce the burden on medical institutions.

COVID-19 vaccine

There are different types of vaccines such as live vaccines and inactivated vaccines, etc. The COVID-19 vaccine that is currently used (Pfizer and Takeda/Moderna vaccines) represents a new type of vaccine that is based on messenger RNA (mRNA) using the SARS-CoV-2 spike protein gene. With approximately 95% efficacy after 2 doses, the vaccine is recognized as being effective in preventing the development (onset) of symptoms such as fever and coughing. (The efficacy of the influenza vaccine is approximately 40 to 60%).

However, as of the current point in time, the effectiveness of the vaccine in preventing infection has not been fully clarified scientifically, so even after vaccination, there is still the possibility of infection, onset of disease, and transmitting the disease to others. Therefore, regardless of whether one has received the vaccine, it is necessary to continue appropriate infection prevention measures. Specifically, avoid the "Three Cs*", wear a mask, wash your hands using soap, disinfect with hand sanitizer, and eat in silence, etc. *Crowded places, close-contact settings, closed spaces

Side reactions

Major side reactions include headaches, joint and muscle aches, soreness of the injection site, fatigue, chills, fever, etc. The majority of these symptoms will fade within a few days after vaccination. There are some symptoms that are more frequent after the second dose as compared to the first dose. Make sure to receive the vaccinations when your physical condition is essentially fine, and to take things easy for a few days after receiving the vaccine.

Rare and serious side reactions include shock and anaphylaxis.

Since this vaccine is a new type of vaccine, there is the possibility that symptoms that have not yet been made clear may develop. If you experience any concerning symptoms after receiving the vaccine, consult

with a medical institution.

・If you receive the COVID-19 vaccine, make sure to receive two doses of the vaccine. (For the Pfizer vaccine, wait 3 weeks in between the doses, and for the Takeda/Moderna vaccine, wait 4 weeks in between the doses.)

Reference

・ Novel Coronavirus Vaccines (Prime Minister and His Cabinet) https://japan.kantei.go.jp/ongoingtopics/vaccine.html#vaccine08

For the following two pages, you can automatically translate them by selecting the language you want to read from the "言語切替(Linguistic change)" pull-down menu displayed in the upper left corner.

・ COVID-19 Vaccine (MHLW) https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/seisakunitsuite/bunya/vaccine_00184.html

・ Efficacy/Safety of the COVID-19 Vaccine (MHLW) https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/seisakunitsuite/bunya/vaccine_yuukousei_anzensei.html

・ COVID-19 Vaccine Q&A (MHLW) https://www.cov19-vaccine.mhlw.go.jp/qa/ (only in Japanese)

・ COVID-19 Infection: Eliminating Discrimination and Bias (MOJ) http://www.moj.go.jp/JINKEN/jinken02_00022.html (only in Japanese)