



MINISTRY OF HEALTH
SINGAPORE

MH 34:24/8

MOH Circular No. 07A/2022

31 January 2022

See Distribution List

RECOVERED PERSONS WITH POSITIVE SARS-CoV-2 SEROLOGY TEST RESULT

This updates healthcare providers that:

- a) Positive SARS-CoV-2 serology test results attributable to infection will be accepted as documentation of previous infection, if infection has not previously been documented; and
- b) The *Memo on Confirmed COVID-19 Infection and Recovery for Unvaccinated Individuals* (Annex D of Circular 07/2022) has been updated to be used in case of eligible seropositive results.

2. Patients with a positive SARS-CoV-2 serology test done locally, the result of which is attributable to infection and not past vaccination (see paragraph 5 for further guidance), will now be recognised as having previously recovered from COVID-19. This is an extension of the existing groups recognised as recovered from COVID-19 infection, which are: (a) P1 PCR+, (b) P2PC (ART+/PCR+) and (c) P2 PCR+, whose ART or PCR tests are conducted by an approved PCR/ART test provider (as described in paragraph 8 of Circular 07/2022).

3. For patients who are currently fully vaccinated, having a local seropositive result attributable to infection means that they are considered “recovered and fully vaccinated”. They are not required to receive booster vaccination at this time, and therefore continue to remain eligible for Vaccination-Differentiated Safe Management Measures (VDS), even beyond 270 days after completion of their primary vaccination series. This will continue to be reflected on TraceTogether, and no further action is required on the part of healthcare providers.

4. Seropositive patients who are not fully vaccinated at the time of infection and their local seropositive result resulting from the infection, would be given a cleared status for VDS for 180 days from the day of the first positive result of a SARS-CoV-2



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test (PCR, ART¹ or serology). They are strongly encouraged to complete their vaccination, after which their status will be reflected as in paragraph 3 above. For recovered persons who are unvaccinated / partially vaccinated, MOH is updating our systems to have TraceTogether reflect a cleared status to enter VDS settings for the applicable period. In the interim, they will need to present a memo for entry verification checks at venues / activities where VDS is implemented². Doctors may provide this "Memo on Confirmed COVID-19 Infection and Recovery for Unvaccinated Individuals" (see **Annex**), which was previously included as Annex D in Circular 07/2022 and has been updated to include serology tests.

5. In issuing the memo, doctors must ensure that the seropositive result, based on the antibody detected (anti-N or anti-S), is attributable to a past infection and not to past vaccination:

- a) If a patient has not received any vaccine previously, any positive SARS-CoV-2 serology test (i.e. anti-N or anti-S or both) would be evidence of a past infection.
- b) If a patient has only received COVID-19 vaccines that are not inactivated virus vaccines (i.e. not Sinovac-CoronaVac, Sinopharm or Covaxin), an anti-N SARS-CoV-2 serology test would be evidence of a past infection. A positive anti-S SARS-CoV-2 serology test alone can be due to vaccination.
- c) If a patient has received any inactivated COVID-19 vaccine (e.g. Sinovac-CoronaVac, Sinopharm or Covaxin), the vaccine will stimulate both Anti-S and Anti-N antibodies. There is no simple way to determine past infection on the basis of serology alone. Hence, these persons should not be issued a memo certifying recovered status solely on the basis of a serology test. These patients may need further vaccination doses to be considered fully vaccinated or boosted.

6. For persons who were vaccinated and infected overseas, please continue to follow the separate guidance issued to medical clinics on the ingestion of overseas vaccination and recovered records.

7. The TraceTogether app is being updated and is expected to reflect the cleared status of unvaccinated / partially vaccinated recovered persons for VDS by March 2022. Persons with "Memo on Confirmed COVID-19 Infection and Recovery for Unvaccinated Individuals" should rely on their TraceTogether app (instead of the memo) when their status is infection/recovery status is updated on the app. Please inform your patients of this.

8. Doctors should note that serology testing is not required or recommended before administering COVID-19 vaccination, nor afterwards. There is no need for a serology test to determine if a patient has recovered from a past infection prior to

¹ Tests conducted by an approved SARS-CoV-2 test provider.

² For more information on VDS, please refer to go.gov.sg/vdsmminfo.

primary or booster COVID-19 vaccination. Vaccination and boosting are safe in persons who had unknowingly recovered from a past infection.



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Annex

Annex	MEMO ON CONFIRMED COVID-19 INFECTION AND RECOVERY FOR UNVACCINATED INDIVIDUALS
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Distribution List

All registered medical practitioners and Telemedicine Providers
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