Tuyên truyền về tiêm vaccine phòng Covid-19 cho đồng bào dân tộc thiểu số (**Propaganda about Covid-19 vaccination for ethnic minorities**) Tuyên truyền về tiêm vaccine phòng Covid-19 cho đồng bào dân tộc thiểu số (nhandan.vn) (29/10/2021)

Set to complete the goal of vaccinating 100% of the population within the prescribed age group with two doses of COVID-19 vaccine, recently working with the Dien Bien health sector, party committees, and authorities of districts, towns, and cities in the province have actively propagated, mobilized, and explained so that people understand the benefits of vaccination to prevent diseases. However, in some highland and border districts, there is still a situation where a part of ethnic minorities hesitate and delay vaccination.

In Dien Bien province, some districts have lower vaccination rates than the provincial average. Reasons include incomplete understanding and misinformation among ethnic minorities, particularly in highland and border areas. In Dien Bien Dong and Muong Nhe districts, some H'Mong people hesitated due to misinformation. In Pa Khom village, Na Nhan commune, awareness sessions were conducted before vaccination. In Nam Po district, far from the city center, logistical challenges hinder vaccination efforts, especially for elderly and poor villagers lacking transportation. Dien Bien Dong district faces similar challenges, with some residents hesitant despite thorough education. To address this, local authorities are organizing grassroots-level awareness campaigns and vaccination mobilization efforts.

In the Nam Po district, various groups including village Covid teams, youth unions, and women's unions actively participate in vaccination propaganda and mobilization efforts. Mr. Nguyen Xuan Thuan expressed confidence that apart from those working away, Nam Po will achieve 100% vaccination coverage. Recognizing the importance of vaccination, the Secretary of the Dien Bien Provincial Party Committee, Mr. Nguyen Van Thang, emphasized the need to intensify propaganda efforts tailored to local customs and beliefs to ensure a widespread understanding of vaccination's role in epidemic prevention at both individual and community levels.

Xuyên tạc vaccine và tội ác hủy hoại niềm tin (Vaccine misrepresentation and crimes that destroy trust)

..::Tin tức::...::Huyện Điện Biên Đông:...Tỉnh Điện Biên (dienbien.gov.vn) (10/11/2021)

The spread of conspiracy theories and false information regarding vaccines is condemned as a deliberate attempt to sabotage the efforts of the government to vaccinate the population against COVID-19. These tactics aim to distort and deny the value of the vaccination strategy and hinder the vaccination campaign. Despite these efforts, the government remains committed to vaccinating and testing 100% of people in key cities and localities. Such misinformation not only disrupts COVID-19 prevention and control efforts but also undermines public trust in the government's policies and vaccination strategies. It is imperative to combat and eliminate this misinformation to maintain community health and stability.

The entire political system in Vietnam, including the medical team, military, police, and press agencies, has united to combat the spread of divisive and harmful misinformation. Through widespread propaganda efforts, the government has successfully helped people understand the importance of vaccination strategies and the risks associated with not being vaccinated against COVID-19. Despite efforts to oppose these strategies, the government has taken decisive action to differentiate between those who spread harmful information and those who comply with vaccination guidelines. While some individuals have realized their wrongdoing and faced legal consequences, there remains a group of ill-intentioned individuals who persist in their opposition to the government's vaccination strategy. This opposition is seen as part of a larger anti-communist agenda supported by external organizations and powerful leaders. Without external support, these individuals would not have the means or courage to undermine the government's efforts.

Hostile forces aim to undermine the Party's leadership and steer Vietnam towards capitalism. They exploit the complexities of the COVID-19 pandemic response to advance their long-term agenda. Misinformation campaigns and efforts to sow doubt about vaccines and government policies have led some to fear vaccination and prevention measures. False narratives about food shortages alongside vaccine risks have caused disturbances, with people fleeing cities and disrupting social distancing efforts. These actions sabotage both epidemic control and socio-economic development. However, the government's comprehensive response, involving all levels of society, has debunked these falsehoods and ensured that no one is left behind. Despite challenges, Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh City, and other provinces continue to implement pandemic directives, supported by the army, police, medical professionals, and the people, to restore normalcy.

Through collective efforts at all levels and sectors, Vietnam's fight against the pandemic has yielded promising results, likened to a battle against a common enemy. Concurrently, efforts to combat misinformation have thwarted attempts by hostile forces to undermine the Party and State. Positive information dissemination has bolstered support for authorities, particularly in epidemic areas. With the arrival of new vaccine batches, both imported and domestically produced, the nation anticipates a significant boost in vaccination efforts. This reinforces public understanding of hostile forces' schemes and underscores the importance of the Party and Government's vaccination strategy in safeguarding public health and well-being. Vaccination serves not only as

a defense against COVID-19 but also as a means to combat misinformation and hostility, contributing to the nation's pandemic prevention and control efforts.

Vạch trần những thủ đoạn xuyên tạc sai sự thật về công cuộc phòng, chống đại dịch COVID-19 của Việt Nam (**Exposing false distortions about Vietnam's** work to prevent and control the COVID-19 pandemic)

Vạch trần những thủ đoạn xuyên tạc sai sự thật về công cuộc phòng, chống đại dịch COVID-19 của Việt Nam - ĐẤU TRANH PHẢN BÁC LUẬN ĐIỆU SAI TRÁI, THÙ ĐỊCH - Tạp chí Cộng sản (tapchicongsan.org.vn) (21-11-2021)

From the end of 2019 until now, the COVID-19 pandemic has been complicated and unpredictable, negatively impacting the world and regional economies, including Vietnam. While our Party, State, and people are making efforts to comprehensively implement pandemic prevention and control measures, initially achieving important results, hostile, reactionary forces and political opportunities are pushing forward. spreading fake news, distorting the situation, denying how to prevent and control the COVID-19 epidemic in Vietnam, attempting to spread skepticism, and destabilizing security, social order, and safety. Therefore, it is necessary to expose the nature of the plots and tricks of hostile forces, contributing to strengthening the solidarity, consensus, and determination to repel the COVID-19 pandemic of both the political system and the people.

"Fake news virus" and misleading views, distorting the truth about the situation of COVID-19 epidemic prevention and control in Vietnam

Recently, the fourth wave of the COVID-19 epidemic broke out in Vietnam, with the appearance of the Delta variant of the SARS-CoV-2 virus with a fast infection rate, extremely complicated developments, and difficulty to control. In that context, the entire Party, the entire people, and the entire army must focus all resources on promoting the fight against the epidemic, implementing social distancing, quarantining, and continuously improving treatment regimens to win every life. life for the sick, while ensuring the production and supply of food, food, and necessities to each person.

Hostile forces, both domestic and foreign, are exploiting Vietnam's pandemic challenges to spread false information across social media platforms. This "fake news virus" comprises fabricated content and manipulated images aimed at instigating chaos and disrupting daily life. One tactic involves spreading rumors of scarcity and price hikes in markets, falsely attributed to "internal state agencies," fostering skepticism and social unrest. These falsehoods claim Vietnam is in the midst of a nightmare and suggest government abandonment, inciting distrust and non-compliance with pandemic regulations. However, Vietnam's proactive measures to ensure market stability and supply chain operations debunk these claims.

Furthermore, these forces criticize and distort Vietnam's pandemic response efforts, framing them as human rights violations. They disseminate numerous articles and social media posts alleging government neglect, mismanagement, and inequality in access to services and support. Such falsehoods aim to discredit the Party and State, inciting civil disobedience and opposition to pandemic measures. Yet, Vietnam remains steadfast in its commitment to both safeguarding lives and promoting economic development, refuting these baseless allegations.

Hostile forces are employing divisive tactics to undermine national unity and disrupt Vietnam's pandemic response. They exploit historical tensions between regions, suggesting that the north and south cannot unite in fighting the epidemic, aiming to sow discord and hinder cooperation. Additionally, they spread misinformation about the government's vaccine strategy, falsely claiming that vaccines are being misallocated and sold to the public. These distortions aim to erode trust in the government and the vaccination campaign, undermining efforts to combat the pandemic and destabilizing society. These plots seek to create anxiety, confusion, and chaos, weakening Vietnam's resolve to overcome the pandemic.

It is impossible to distort the truth and deny Vietnam's measures and results in preventing and fighting the COVID-19 pandemic

Vietnam's response to the COVID-19 pandemic showcases a remarkable display of unity and determination across the entire political system. Under the leadership of the Party, the country has treated the pandemic as a wartime mission, implementing unprecedented measures with vigilance and flexibility. The Party Central Committee, Politburo, and National Assembly have provided clear directives and resolutions, guiding the government's swift and decisive actions. Government agencies have worked tirelessly to adapt to evolving circumstances, mobilizing all sectors of society to combat the virus. Thousands of frontline workers, including medical professionals, volunteers, and security forces, have selflessly dedicated themselves to the fight, embodying the spirit of solidarity and service to the people. Despite the challenges, the majority of Vietnamese citizens have unwaveringly supported the Party and government's efforts, demonstrating trust in their commitment to the nation's well-being. This collective resolve has not only yielded tangible results in pandemic control but has also reinforced confidence in the Party and State's leadership. Therefore, any attempts to undermine or distort these efforts are swiftly countered by the undeniable successes achieved on the ground.

Vietnam has implemented comprehensive and stringent measures to combat the COVID-19 pandemic, emphasizing prevention, control, and vaccination. Through initiatives such as the 5K message (later expanded to 9K) and vaccination campaigns, localities and organizations have worked diligently to minimize the spread of infection. Strategies include proactive distancing, quarantining, and blocking epidemic sources, with a focus on strict enforcement and thorough implementation. The approach encompasses widespread testing, targeted tracing, and isolation to contain outbreaks effectively. Despite facing multiple outbreaks, Vietnam has successfully achieved the dual goal of economic stability and disease control, earning recognition from international observers like the WHO and the former French Ambassador to Vietnam. The proactive engagement of Vietnamese citizens, coupled with government policies, has played a pivotal role in the country's effective response to the pandemic.

Vietnam has adopted a comprehensive vaccine strategy and established a COVID-19 Vaccine Fund to combat the pandemic. Emphasizing vaccines as a strategic and long-term solution, the government is accelerating vaccination efforts, particularly targeting frontline workers, high-risk areas, and industrial park employees. The country is actively pursuing vaccine diplomacy, securing aid, purchases, and imports to swiftly immunize the population and achieve herd immunity. A nationwide free vaccination campaign is underway, aiming to vaccinate 75% of the population

aged 18 to 65 by early 2022. Vaccine allocation prioritizes fairness and transparency among regions, with emphasis on frontline healthcare workers and areas most affected by the pandemic. All imported vaccines meet WHO standards and undergo rigorous approval processes by the Ministry of Health. Moreover, Vietnam facilitates research, technology transfer, clinical trials, and vaccine production to meet disease prevention and control needs promptly and effectively. Drawing on global experiences and WHO consultation, the country creatively mobilizes resources to procure vaccines and expedite the journey towards herd immunity.

Vietnam prioritizes the lives and health of its citizens amidst the challenging fourth COVID-19 outbreak. Measures are taken to maintain the supply chain and stabilize the distribution of essential goods, especially in quarantine areas. Social security policies are implemented, ensuring support for those in need, including workers, vulnerable groups, and frontline forces. Substantial relief packages, totaling billions of VND, are swiftly disbursed, reaching households directly affected by the pandemic. The government's commitment to leaving no one behind is evident, with concerted efforts to support and accompany affected communities. The people's welfare remains central to Vietnam's response, reflecting the Party and State's unwavering dedication to serving and protecting its citizens in all circumstances.

Vietnam takes decisive action against the spread of misinformation, emphasizing the importance of vaccination against the "fake news virus" with the 5K approach. The government prioritizes budget allocation and legal resources, establishing centralized command centers at all levels for unified direction in procuring vaccines and medical supplies. Through synchronized, flexible, and creative solutions, backed by the solidarity of the entire political system and the people, Vietnam remains confident in defeating the COVID-19 pandemic. General Secretary Nguyen Phu Trong's rallying call underscores the nation's unity and determination to prevent the epidemic's spread, ensuring victory over the virus. Despite sophisticated tactics from hostile forces, the truth prevails, dispelling doubts and strengthening community confidence in defeating the pandemic.

Thần tốc thực hiện chiến dịch tiêm chủng vaccine phòng COVID-19 (Speedy implementation of COVID-19 vaccination campaign)

Thần tốc thực hiện chiến dịch tiêm chủng vaccine phòng COVID-19 (chinhphu.vn) (08/12/2021)

The Prime Minister has urged the Ministry of Health to accelerate the COVID-19 vaccination campaign, aiming to complete 100% of two-dose vaccinations for individuals aged 18 and above by December 31, 2021. Any locality failing to meet this target will face accountability from the Provincial People's Committee Chairman and the Health Minister to the Government and Prime Minister. Notice No. 327/TB-VPCP from the Government Office summarizes the Prime Minister's directives on vaccines and COVID-19 treatment drugs. It highlights the positive outcomes of Vietnam's vaccine strategy, with 95.6% of adults receiving the first dose and 74.2% receiving the second dose. While progress has been made in vaccine procurement and distribution, improvements are sought in drug preparation and distribution. The notice emphasizes the need for a thorough assessment and enhanced implementation of vaccine importation, research, technology transfer, and production to address evolving epidemic challenges. The Health Minister and Provincial People's Committee Chairman are tasked with ensuring timely and effective completion of vaccinations, especially for high-risk groups, by December 15, 2021.

Develop a vaccination plan for children aged 5 - 11 years old

The Prime Minister has tasked the Party Committee of the Ministry of Health with expeditiously finalizing a comprehensive program for COVID-19 prevention and control. This program, due before December 8, 2021, should outline detailed vaccination plans, including dosage, age groups, injection timelines, storage strategies, and considerations for booster shots and mixed vaccinations. The Ministry must also propose a vaccination plan for children aged 5 to 11 years, supported by scientific and practical evidence, by December 10, 2021. Additionally, plans to procure vaccines for 2022, especially for children, must be submitted for approval by December 2021.

Furthermore, the Ministry of Health is responsible for drafting a detailed vaccination roadmap for 2022, due before December 20, 2021. It must also accelerate the COVID-19 vaccination campaign to ensure that 100% of individuals aged 18 and above receive two doses by December 15, 2021, or at the latest by December 31, 2021. Localities failing to meet this target will be held accountable. The Ministry is also directed to monitor vaccine delivery and administration, aiming to provide third doses to all adults by June 2022, with priority given to individuals aged 50 and above and frontline workers. Lastly, it must coordinate with relevant authorities to support localities in implementing rapid vaccination campaigns to meet national goals.

Fight against all corrupt and negative acts

The Ministry of Health will lead efforts to review the transportation, storage, and vaccination processes, addressing any incidents transparently and promptly. They will learn from these experiences and address any violations. Additionally, they will work closely with the National Assembly Standing Committee to address institutional barriers related to research, technology transfer, and vaccine production. This includes proactive forecasting of drug demand, transparency in procurement, and combatting corruption. The Prime Minister stressed the importance of

supporting domestic vaccine production while ensuring safety and efficiency, minimizing administrative burdens, and providing appropriate financial support to facilitate research and production.

Open and transparent vaccine types

The Ministry of Health and relevant enterprises bear legal, Party, State, and public responsibility for their decisions, prioritizing public health and transparency. They are committed to combating negative behaviors, ensuring fairness, and avoiding biases or hindrances to progress. Ministries, agencies, and localities will actively communicate Party, State, and government policies, providing transparent information on vaccine allocation, types, vaccination progress, and side effects. This aims to instill confidence in the public and encourage continued vaccination without prejudice against licensed vaccines.

Xử phạt vi phạm hành chính đối với các hành vi vi phạm trong bối cảnh ngăn chặn dịch bệnh Covid - 19 ở Việt Nam (Administrative sanctions for violations in the context of preventing the Covid - 19 epidemic in Vietnam)

<u>Xử phạt vi phạm hành chính đối với các hành vi vi phạm trong bối cảnh ngăn chặn dịch bệnh Covid - 19</u> <u>ở Việt Nam (lapphap.vn)</u> (15/12/2021)

The COVID-19 epidemic has made several changes in social life, there are a few previously frequent administrative violations occurring due to the application of regulations on self-isolation and social distancing; on the contrary, several violations related to compliance with regulations on disease prevention and control have occurred more frequently. Within the scope of this article, the author provides an analysis of the legal aspects of administrative violation-sanctioning activities during the period of the COVID-19 epidemic in Vietnam. These are the behaviors: going out without appropriate reasons; posting false information on social networks related to the prevention and control of the COVID-19 epidemic; not installing electronic apps (bluezone) on smartphones; vaccination refusal; the refusal of COVID-19 infection tests.

Thần tốc tiêm vaccine và đẩy mạnh thực hiện các biện pháp phòng COVID-19 (**Speedy vaccination and accelerated implementation of COVID-19 prevention measures**) - This news was retrieved from Department of Preventive Medicine

Thần tốc tiêm vaccine và đẩy mạnh thực hiện các biện pháp phòng COVID-19 (vncdc.gov.vn) (12/01/2022)

As of January 11, 2022, global COVID-19 cases surpassed 311.2 million, with over 5.5 million deaths. In Vietnam, there were 1,930,428 cases, mostly domestic, with 1,596,956 recoveries and 34,531 deaths. Amid the Omicron variant risk, Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh issued Official Telegram No. 28/CD-TTg, urging strict epidemic prevention measures. Authorities were tasked with enhancing public awareness, ensuring effective vaccination, and facilitating home treatment. The Ministry of Health was instructed to secure vaccines, accelerate domestic production, and explore booster shots. Collaboration with relevant agencies was emphasized to research and implement safe and timely vaccination for children under 18.

Không quản đường khó: Việt Nam mang thông tin về COVID-19 tới các vùng sâu vùng xa (**Vietnam brings information about COVID-19 to remote areas**)

<u>Không quản đường khó: Việt Nam mang thông tin về COVID-19 tới các vùng sâu vùng xa (who.int)</u> (21 February 2022)

Mr. Trieu Ta Pao, a communications officer in Nam Khoa commune, Ha Giang province, navigates challenging mountain roads daily to disseminate crucial information about COVID-19 vaccination and prevention measures. Despite the area's limited digital access, Mr. Pao utilizes a motorbike-mounted speaker to broadcast messages in both Vietnamese and Dao languages. His dedication ensures that even in remote areas, residents are informed and educated about vaccination and COVID-19 prevention.

As COVID-19 cases rise in Vietnam, efforts are being made to ensure vulnerable populations are informed about safety measures. With over 2.4 million cases and nearly 40,000 deaths recorded as of mid-February 2022, the government, with support from the WHO, emphasizes the 5K protection messages and vaccination. These include wearing masks, social distancing, hand hygiene, avoiding large gatherings, and health declaration. Community approaches have proven effective, as illustrated by the stories of vaccinated individuals like Ms. Giang Thi La, who feels more secure attending to her daily tasks near the Vietnam-China border.

Ms. La and Mr. Pao, both vaccinated against COVID-19, feel safer in their daily activities. Ms. La, selling products near the border, now feels more confident, vowing to adhere to the 5K measures. Mr. Pao, a mechanic, meets many customers daily and feels reassured after vaccination. Dr. Kidong Park of WHO praises Vietnam's communication campaigns, emphasizing community-centered approaches like Mr. Pao's grassroots efforts. WHO's Communications for Health (C4H) strategy focuses on relatable messengers delivering relevant health advice, fostering trust and action within communities. Mr. Pao's advocacy exemplifies this, inspiring locals to prioritize their health.

Thủ tướng chỉ đạo khẩn về tiêm vaccine và đẩy mạnh phòng, chống COVID-19 (**The Prime Minister urgently directed vaccination and promoted COVID-19 prevention and control**) - This news was retrieved from the electronic information portal of Binh Phuoc province.

<u>Thủ tướng chỉ đạo khẩn về tiêm vaccine và đẩy mạnh phòng, chống COVID-19 (binhphuoc.gov.vn)</u> (24/02/2022)

Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh has just signed Official Telegram No. 170/CD-TTg dated February 23, 2022, sent to Ministers, Heads of ministerial-level agencies, and agencies under the Government; Chairman of the People's Committee of provinces and centrally run cities on vaccination and several measures to promote COVID-19 prevention and control.

Recently, the epidemic situation is still under control but is still extremely complicated, unpredictable, and difficult to predict; To maintain, consolidate, and promote the achievements of epidemic prevention and control, continue to open and promote socio-economic recovery and development, Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh requested:

1. Agencies at all levels, along with people and businesses, are urged to maintain resilience and vigilance in COVID-19 prevention efforts. They must strictly adhere to guidelines set forth by the Party and State, particularly Resolution No. 128/NQ-CP, and directives from relevant ministries. Emphasis should be placed on the robust implementation of vaccination campaigns and swift access to treatment resources. Additionally, raising public awareness and ensuring compliance with prevention measures are crucial. Any instances of negativity or corruption in epidemic prevention and control must be firmly addressed.

2. Chairman of the People's Committee of provinces and centrally run cities coordinates closely and effectively with ministries and branches to lead, direct, and organize the implementation:

- Further, promote and speed up the organization of the third dose of vaccination for people aged 18 years and older, completed in the first quarter of 2022; the second vaccination for children from 12 to under 18 years old, completed in February 2022; Prepare all conditions in terms of facilities, equipment, storage facilities, locations, and human resources to vaccinate children from 5 years old to under 12 years old immediately after receiving the vaccine.

- Organize safe, scientific, reasonable, and effective vaccination according to the guidance of the Ministry of Health. Arrange centralized, mobile, and at-home vaccination sites in a scientific, sensible, and flexible manner so that everyone can be vaccinated for free, promptly, and according to regulations with the motto "go to every alley, knock on every house, check each person" and "vaccination is both a right and a responsibility for yourself, your family, the community and the country"; Pay special attention to the elderly, people with underlying illnesses, people who cannot walk, people in difficult circumstances, the weak...; Immediately develop and implement plans to promote propaganda and mobilization of those who have not been vaccinated or have not been fully vaccinated, and parents to urgently and actively have their children vaccinated in a timely, safe, scientific and reasonable manner. , effective and compliant with regulations.

3. The Ministry of Health leads and collaborates effectively with relevant ministries and localities to:

- Ensure the Spring 2022 vaccination campaign is conducted safely, scientifically, and efficiently across all areas, with timely access to an adequate supply of vaccines.

- Expedite the procurement of vaccines for children aged 5 to under 12 in accordance with governmental directives.

- Stay proactive in accessing global information on new vaccines, drugs, and technologies to enhance the country's Covid-19 prevention and treatment efforts.

- Strengthen state management, inspection, and quality control of vaccines, drugs, and related products to prevent the circulation of counterfeit or substandard items.

- Provide clear guidelines for home care and treatment of Covid-19 patients, particularly children and those with mild symptoms, to alleviate pressure on medical facilities.

- Collaborate closely with the Ministry of Education and Training and the Ministry of Culture, Sports, and Tourism to update and enforce disease prevention measures in schools and ensure safe tourism practices.

4. The Ministry of Education and Training collaborates closely with the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism, as well as other relevant entities, to enhance measures for preventing and controlling the Covid-19 epidemic. They focus on updating, supplementing, and consistently implementing clear and easy-to-follow procedures and plans for teaching and learning, aiming to safely reopen schools and tourism activities with efficiency and adaptability to the current situation.

5. Additionally, the Ministry of Information and Communications works in coordination with relevant ministries and branches to enhance software and information technology tools for efficient public service delivery, ensuring effective epidemic prevention and social security measures while maintaining public order.

6. Media and press agencies actively engage in disseminating timely and accurate information, coordinating closely with relevant authorities to provide thorough and scientifically sound guidance on COVID-19 prevention and control. This supports the government's policy of safe and flexible adaptation to effectively manage the pandemic, promoting rapid recovery and sustainable socio-economic development.

Thành quả 1 năm tiêm chủng vaccine phòng COVID-19 của Việt Nam (**Results of 1 year of COVID-19 vaccination in Vietnam**)

<u>Thành quả 1 năm tiêm chủng vaccine phòng COVID-19 của Việt Nam - Tin liên quan - Cổng thông tin Bộ Y tế (moh.gov.vn)</u> (08/03/2022)

Since the first COVID-19 vaccine was administered in Hai Duong on March 8, 2021, Vietnam has made significant progress in its vaccination campaign, administering nearly 198.3 million doses. This effort has positioned Vietnam among the top six countries globally in terms of vaccine coverage rates. Despite initial challenges with limited global vaccine supply, the Vietnamese government, under the guidance of the Party, has actively negotiated vaccine procurement and accelerated domestic vaccine research and production. As of March 6, Vietnam has received over 219 million vaccine doses and vaccinated more than 197.5 million doses, achieving high coverage rates, particularly among adults and adolescents. Looking ahead, Vietnam plans to extend vaccination to children aged 5-11 and is exploring the possibility of a fourth vaccine dose. Deputy Minister of Health Do Xuan Tuyen highlighted these efforts at the launch of the "Safe journey - Protect yourself, your family and loved ones" campaign on March 7, emphasizing their contribution to effectively controlling the COVID-19 epidemic while ensuring flexibility and safety.

Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh, speaking at the conclusion of the National Steering Committee for COVID-19 Epidemic Prevention meeting on March 5, highlighted the success of Vietnam's vaccination campaign, achieving high coverage rates compared to other countries. Minister of Health Nguyen Thanh Long emphasized the continued effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccines in reducing severity and deaths, even against the Omicron strain. UNICEF Representative in Vietnam, Ms. Rana Flowers, acknowledged the success of vaccination combined with epidemic prevention practices in preventing disease and reducing deaths. The Prime Minister stressed the importance of speeding up vaccination efforts, aiming to complete the third dose for adults and the second dose for adolescents in the first quarter of 2022, while preparing for vaccination of children aged 5-11 and researching the possibility of a fourth dose and vaccination for children under 5.

Tiêm vaccine COVID ở vùng sâu, vùng xa: Người dân đến tiêm mừng rơi nước mắt (COVID vaccination in remote areas: People came to get vaccinated and shed tears of joy)

<u>Tiêm vaccine COVID ở vùng sâu, vùng xa: Người dân đến tiêm mừng rơi nước mắt (covid19.gov.vn)</u> (31/03/2022)

Yen Bai province has reached approximately 100% of people of all ages with the 3rd dose of COVID-19 vaccine coverage. As of the morning of March 31, 2022, the number of people vaccinated with the 3rd dose of Yen Bai vaccine reached 93.8% of people in the age group. To achieve this number in the conditions of many remote areas and many ethnic minorities is a great effort of the entire political system, of which the core is the health sector.

Mobilize and persuade ethnic people

In Tram Tau, the most challenging district of Yen Bai province, various ethnic groups coexist, with the Mong people comprising 77% and the Thai people making up the remaining 16%. Hat Luu commune, predominantly inhabited by the Thai ethnic group, faces socio-economic infrastructure deficiencies and a high rate of poverty. Encouraging COVID-19 vaccination initially met resistance due to misconceptions and concerns, especially when individuals experienced side effects after vaccination. Despite ongoing efforts to educate and mobilize, some individuals, particularly those with serious health conditions, remain hesitant to receive additional doses. Similarly, Xa Ho commune encountered initial reluctance towards vaccination, but through extensive communication efforts and community involvement, there has been increased acceptance. The local authorities are actively engaged in persuading and ensuring full vaccination coverage, especially for the third dose.

Flexible vaccination methods

Dr. Dinh Thi Minh Luyen, Director of Tram Tau District Health Center in Yen Bai, emphasizes the meticulous preparation undertaken to ensure smooth vaccination rounds. Injection teams are well-equipped and trained to adhere to Ministry of Health guidelines. To facilitate access, vaccination sites accommodate flexible scheduling, with efforts made to reach those who may forget or be unable to attend. Villages with scattered populations pose logistical challenges, yet proactive registration and coordination ensure timely vaccination for all eligible individuals. Local officials play a crucial role in dispelling misconceptions and encouraging vaccination. Sung A Hanh, head of Ta Dang village, shares how effective communication and persuasion led hesitant community members to embrace vaccination. Similarly, Mr. Giang A Linh, initially apprehensive, ultimately received vaccination after understanding its importance. Overall, community engagement and targeted outreach efforts are instrumental in achieving vaccination goals amidst challenging circumstances.