

# Pfizer-BioNTech shots are key to boosting immunity against COVID, top doctors say

TDT | Manama

**H**ealth Ministry yesterday called on eligible citizens and residents to receive their COVID vaccine shots immediately for the continued success of the National Vaccination Campaign and preserve their health and social safety.

Vaccination, the ministry said, will help raise the immunity response of the body and is crucial for those suffering from weak immunity, diabetes, heart and respiratory diseases, cancerous tumours and obesity. The move also comes amid a surge in cases in China that has raised fresh worries as China also abruptly U-turned on COVID controls.

France yesterday urged European Union peers to test Chinese travellers for COVID after Paris decided to do so amid an outbreak sweeping the country.

Only Italy and Spain also require tests in the 27-nation, largely border-free EU and health officials from across the bloc failed last week to agree on a joint course.

Bahrain has recently announced the availability of the newly developed Pfizer-BioNTech booster vaccine that has proved successful against Coronavirus and its mutations.

The newly developed bivalent vaccine, administered as a booster shot, targets the original virus strain and the omicron variant to provide broad protection against COVID-19 and its mutations.

The vaccine, Health Ministry

## (Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine) newly developed bivalent COVID-19 booster shots for 12 years and above:

Working hours starts from 07:30 am to 07:00 pm (24 hour):

- Halat Bu Maher Health Center
- BBK Health Center - Hidd
- Jidhafs Health Center
- Youssef Engineer Health Center
- Sheikh Jaber Health Center
- Khalifa City Health Center
- Hamad Kanoo Health Center

Working hours starts from 07:30 am to 05:00 pm:

- Naeem Health Center
- Sheikh Sabah Al-Salem Health Center
- A'ali Health Center
- Sheikh Abdullah bin Khalid Health Center
- Hamad Town Health Centre
- Kuwait Health Center



said, is available for those above 12 years of age from all primary health care centres.

The list of centres is available

at <https://healthalert.gov.bh> Ministry said those wishing to take the vaccines can go directly to the health centres in the lo-

cality, without advance booking.

### What do the experts say?

Dr Mohammed Al-Awadi, a

public health doctor at the Ministry of Health, said the Kingdom is closely following the development of Coronavirus (COVID-19)

and its mutants and is keen to provide the best and safest vaccines to limit its spread, the latest being Pfizer-BioNTech.

Al Awadi urged all to continue taking vaccines to protect themselves, especially those having weak immunity.

The doctor also urged those having symptoms to go directly to a hospital to conduct tests and take necessary measures.

Dr Hala Al-Saffar, a family medicine consultant, called on all to take the Pfizer booster doses approved by the Health Regulatory Authority. "It is the duty of every individual to protect and build a healthy society."

Dr Wafa Rashid Najm, a family doctor in primary health care centres, also urged all citizens and residents to take the vaccine, stressing that it is a national responsibility to participate in the National Vaccination Campaign.

Maha Matar, Head of Nursing in the First Health District in the primary health care centres, said Bahrain is taking all necessary steps to prevent the spread of the virus.

"The recent announcement on the availability of Pfizer-BioNTech is part of that drive. It is given as a booster to enhance the protection, especially for those suffering from weak immunity."

Iman Al-Moallem, Supervisor of Nursing at Hamad Kanoo Health Centre, confirmed the availability of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine in all governorates of the Kingdom.



The Labour Market Regulatory Authority yesterday conducted a joint inspection campaign in the Muharraq Governorate, in coordination with the Nationality, Passports and Residence Affairs (NPRA) of the Ministry of Interior and the Muharraq Governorate Police Directorate. The campaign resulted in reporting a number of violations concerning the Labour Market and Residency laws. LMRA also renewed its call to support the efforts of government agencies to address illegal labour practices, calling on the public to report violations either through [www.lmra.bh](http://www.lmra.bh) or by calling on 17506055.

## Fireworks, cultural activities, beach fest and dance parties

Bahrainis welcome 2023 in style



Staff Reporter  
TDT | Manama

**A**ll over the Kingdom, thousands gathered to celebrate the new year with family and friends.

Celebrations ranged from massive firework displays to traditional food, brunches, cultural activities, DJ events, and disco parties.

Fireworks and celebrations were seen in Avenues Park, Marassi beach, Water Garden City by BBK, and Harbour Row by GFH.

Bahrain Bay Beach hosted a fireworks bike tour and followed an outdoor approach to celebrate the new year.

Revellers were also seen enjoying the beach setting at Solymar beach with a grand celebration party and dancing at the Masquerade Disco at Bagatelle Bahrain.

The Ritz Carlton held an

outside party which included a live DJ by the beach to celebrate the countdown and entertainment.

Thousands were on the streets honking their horns and enjoying music with those waiting in traffic to make it to their destinations.

After the celebratory parties, gatherings, and events, many, who talked to the Daily Tribune, said they will now take the time to create a resolution to welcome the new year on a positive note.

Some said they would start going to the gym, or doing daily walks, as improving health at any time is always a plus in life. People also told us they would start a new habit of reading or yoga or dancing in their free time.

No matter what, people said they would start trying something new this year to add a bit of excitement to life.



Members of the Swiss delegation visited students of Bahrain School, where a discussion was organised on Swiss history, government, politics, the banking system and education. The Department of Defence Education Activity—teaching the children of America's military families worldwide said students had an engaging discussion with officials.