

## **Vaccination Schemes 2009/10**

### **Purpose**

This paper aims to brief Members on the seasonal influenza and pneumococcal vaccination schemes launched by the Government in 2009/10.

### **Background**

2. Under the annual Government Influenza Vaccination Programme (GIVP), certain specific target groups are provided with free seasonal influenza vaccination by the Government. To lower the risk of getting seasonal influenza and pneumococcal infections, the Food and Health Bureau and the Department of Health introduce seasonal influenza and pneumococcal vaccination schemes in 2009/10. The pneumococcal and seasonal influenza vaccines can minimise the hospitalisation rate, related complications and mortality caused by the above pathogens.

### **About the Schemes**

3. The implementation details of the seasonal influenza and pneumococcal vaccination schemes launched by the Government in 2009/10 are as follows: -

#### **(I) Seasonal influenza and pneumococcal vaccination schemes for the elderly**

4. The Scientific Committee on Vaccine Preventable Diseases recommends elders to receive annual seasonal influenza vaccination and a one-off pneumococcal vaccination. Pneumococcal vaccination protection can last up to ten years. The vaccination arrangements are as follows:

##### ***(A) Government Vaccination Programme***

5. Under the existing Government Influenza Vaccination Programme, elders living in residential care homes; those aged 65 years or above with chronic illness being followed up in public clinics; and those aged 65 years or above receiving Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) can receive free seasonal

influenza vaccination. In 2009/10, Government will extend the scope of the programme to provide seasonal influenza and pneumococcal vaccines to all elders aged 65 years or above, and rename it as Government Vaccination Programme (GVP).

6. As before, eligible elders can, according to his/her own circumstances, receive free vaccination service at either Hospital Authority general/specialist outpatient clinics (for follow-up patients); or DH's Elderly Health Centres (for members), chest clinics (for existing clients); or the residential care homes (for residents).

### ***(B) Elderly Vaccination Subsidy Scheme***

7. For the remaining elders aged 65 years or above who are not eligible under GVP, they can receive seasonal influenza and pneumococcal vaccination from private doctors with Government subsidy under the newly introduced Elderly Vaccination Subsidy Scheme (EVSS). Under EVSS, Hong Kong residents aged 65 years or above will be eligible for Government subsidy to receive the vaccines. The subsidy will cover the vaccine cost and injection cost. Subsidy for vaccine cost for each dose of seasonal influenza vaccine is HK\$80 whereas that of pneumococcal vaccine is HK \$140. Subsidy for the injection of each vaccine dose will be HK\$50. The Government will reimburse the private doctors enrolled under the scheme for the vaccine and injection costs. The Government encourages enrolled private doctors not to charge elders further service fees after receiving the Government's subsidies.

8. We will use the electronic platform of the Elderly Health Care Voucher Pilot Scheme, through the eHealth System to launch EVSS. Private doctors enrolled under EVSS will display the scheme logo at their clinics for recognition. Elders can receive the vaccination services simply by bringing their vaccination records and identity document to any one of the enrolled private doctor's clinic, and then completing and signing the Consent to Use Vaccination Subsidy form. For the sake of price transparency, enrolled doctors have to indicate clearly the service fees they charge at their clinic. DH will upload the enrolled doctors' practice addresses, telephone numbers and service fees onto the Centre for Health Protection website ([www.chp.gov.hk](http://www.chp.gov.hk)) to facilitate choice.

## **(II) Seasonal influenza and pneumococcal vaccination schemes for children**

### ***(A) Government Vaccination Programme and Childhood Influenza Vaccination Subsidy Scheme***

9. There are two influenza vaccination schemes to minimise the chance of hospitalisation in children caused by seasonal influenza. Under the existing GVP, all children aged between 6 months to below 6 years from families receiving CSSA will be entitled to receive free seasonal influenza vaccination in Maternal and Child Health Centres (MCHCs) under DH.

10. The Government introduced the Influenza Vaccination Subsidy Scheme in November 2008, to provide subsidy for children aged between 6 months and below 6 years to receive influenza vaccine in private doctors' clinics. In 2009/10, the Government will continue to launch the Childhood Influenza Vaccination Subsidy Scheme (CIVSS). As in last year, the Government will provide eligible children a subsidy of vaccine cost HK\$80 per dose. The Government will reimburse the private doctors enrolled under the scheme.

### ***(B) Childhood Pneumococcal Vaccination Programme***

11. Besides the seasonal influenza vaccine, in order to lower the risk of getting pneumococcal infection, the Government has incorporated pneumococcal conjugate vaccine into Childhood Immunisation Programme since 1 September 2009. All children born on or after 1 July 2009 can receive free pneumococcal vaccination at DH's MCHCs. At the same time, the Government has launched a one-off catch-up programme for children under 2 years old. All children who are born between 1 September 2007 and 30 June 2009 can receive free pneumococcal vaccination under the catch-up programme.

12. Under this pneumococcal catch-up programme, if the child has a scheduled MCHC vaccination appointment for other vaccines within the period from September to November 2009, the parents do not need to make a separate booking for pneumococcal vaccination. MCHC will provide pneumococcal vaccine to the child with other vaccines on the same visit. On the other hand, if the child has no scheduled visit during the above-mentioned period, parents will need to book an appointment with MCHC for vaccination. Parents can bring along their child's Hong Kong Birth Certificate or other identity document(s), together with all the immunisation record, to the MCHC the child has already registered during office hours to book an appointment.

## **Launching Schedule**

13. Launching dates of the above vaccination schemes are as follows:-

<b>Vaccination Scheme</b>	<b>Launch Date</b>
Childhood Pneumococcal Vaccination Programme	1 September 2009
Government Vaccination Programme Elderly Vaccination Subsidy Scheme Childhood Influenza Vaccination Subsidy Scheme	19 October 2009

## **Publicity**

14. DH has announced the implementation details of the Childhood Pneumococcal Vaccination Programme on 30 July 2009, and uploaded scheme-related information on the Centre for Health Protection website ([www.chp.gov.hk](http://www.chp.gov.hk)). DH has also set up a telephone hotline (2125 2125) for public enquiry. DH will announce the details of GVP, EVSS and CIVSS later, and enhance the publicity by means of leaflets, TV & radio announcement of public information etc.

## **Conclusion**

15. Members are invited to note the information on this document and disseminate it to residents of the district.

Department of Health  
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