

**The 2019/20 Government Vaccination Programme, Vaccination Subsidy Scheme,  
Residential Care Home Vaccination Programme  
and SIV School Outreach (Free-of-charge)**

**Aim**

1. This paper summarizes the arrangement of the seasonal influenza vaccination (SIV) and pneumococcal vaccination under various vaccination programmes/ scheme in 2019/20 for District Councils (DC)'s information.

**Background**

2. Seasonal influenza vaccination is one of the effective means to prevent seasonal influenza and its complications, reduce hospitalisation and death. The Government has been providing free and subsidised SIV to specified target groups annually.

3. Invasive pneumococcal diseases can occur in persons of any age but the outcomes for the diseases are usually more severe among elderly. One of the most effective means of preventing pneumococcal diseases is by pneumococcal vaccination. The Government has also been providing free or subsidised 23-valent pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine (23vPPV) and 13-valent pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV13) to eligible elderly.

4. In 2018/19, a total of above 1 190 000 doses of SIV were administered under Governments' various vaccination programme/ scheme. It was an increase of about 46% (over 370 000 doses) compared with 2017/18. More than 120 000 doses of pneumococcal vaccines were also administered to elderly.

5. In 2019/20, the Government continues to provide free or subsidised SIV and/ or pneumococcal vaccination to eligible persons through various vaccination programmes/ scheme to enhance community's immunity against influenza and pneumococcal infection.

**Vaccination Subsidy Scheme (VSS)**

6. Eligible persons can receive subsidised vaccination from private doctors enrolled in VSS. Subsidy level will be HK\$210 per dose of SIV, \$250 per dose of 23vPPV

and HK\$730 per dose of PCV13. To benefit more people, Hong Kong residents aged 50 to 64 years has been added as an eligible group for subsidised SIV under VSS. Under VSS, doctors may impose extra charge but some doctors will not charge any fee. Please find the details in **Annex 1 and 3**.

### **Government Vaccination Programme (GVP)**

7. Under GVP, eligible groups for free vaccination will be the same as last year. Eligible persons can receive free SIV and/ or pneumococcal vaccination free of charge at clinics of the Hospital Authority (HA) and Department of Health (DH). Please find details in **Annex 2, Annex 3** and information on the CHP website (<https://www.chp.gov.hk/en/features/18630.html>).

### **Residential Care Home Vaccination Programme (RVP)**

8. Eligible persons can receive SIV and/ or pneumococcal vaccination free of charge at residential care homes for the elderly (RCHE), residential care homes for the disabled (RCHD) and designated institutions serving persons with intellectual disability. In 2019/20, RVP will expand to provide free SIV for residents and healthcare workers in residential child care centres. Visiting medical officers (VMOs) will be responsible for providing vaccination at the residential homes. The reimbursement fee to VMOs will be \$100 per dose. For details, please refer to the arrangement of residential homes, **Annex 2 and 3**.

### **SIV School Outreach (Free-of-charge)**

9. To increase SIV uptake rate amongst school children, the SIV School Outreach (Free-of-charge) will be regularized to allow all primary schools to join, and extends to kindergartens (KG), child care centers (CCC), and kindergarten-cum-child care centres (KG-cum-CCC) on a pilot basis.

10. DH will arrange Government outreach team or public-private-partnership (PPP) outreach team to provide vaccination at participating schools. The Government will purchase vaccines for participating primary schools and will pay reimbursement of HK\$100 per dose to PPP doctors. For KG, CCC and KG-cum-CCC, PPP doctors will purchase vaccines and the Government will reimburse HK\$260 per dose to PPP doctors.

11. Schools that will not join SIV School Outreach (Free-of-charge) can join VSS

School Outreach (Extra-charge-allowed). Doctors may impose extra charge but some doctors will not charge any fee.

### **Start dates and vaccination period**

12. The start date for VSS and SIV School Outreach (Free-of-charge) for KG, CCC and KG-cum-CCC will be 9 Oct 2019, and that for GVP, RVP and SIV School Outreach (Free-of-charge) for primary schools will be 23 Oct 2019.

13. The winter influenza season usually comes in the period from January to March/April. As it takes about 2 weeks after influenza vaccination for antibodies to develop in the body, members of the public are encouraged to get vaccinated early (before January each year) to protect from infection during the peak of winter influenza season.

14. For pneumococcal vaccination, there is no special vaccination period. Elderly who have not yet received vaccination should get vaccinated early. The vaccination programme/ scheme will be continuous throughout the year.

### **Members of the public to arrange vaccinations under VSS**

15. The list of enrolled doctors and their service fees (after deducting the Government's subsidy) will be uploaded to the eHealth System (Subsidies) (<https://apps.hcv.gov.hk/SDIR/EN>) around two weeks before the start date. Enrolled doctors will display the designated scheme logo and a pricing poster showing their charges near the entrance of their clinics.

16. Eligible persons can choose doctors or clinics and contact them to obtain more information on service fee and other details. Elderly persons can use Elderly Health Care Voucher (HCV) for payments if the doctor has also joined the HCV Scheme.

### **Outreach vaccination activities**

17. In recent years, community groups organised vaccination activities at non-clinic setting for eligible persons under VSS. However, vaccination is a medical procedure, community groups and health care providers must give due consideration to safety and liability issues when organising vaccination services in non-clinic settings.

18. Organisers who wish to plan outreach vaccination are advised to read carefully

the “Guideline on how to arrange Vaccination Activity at Non-clinic Settings” (**Annex 4** or CHP website: (<https://www.chp.gov.hk/en/features/46428.html>)). The Guidelines provide details on safety and quality issues, reference information on tendering/quotation procedures, and “Guideline for Temporary Storage of Clinical Waste Generated in Outreach Vaccination Activities” provided by the Environmental Protection Department. DH staff may conduct site inspection to ensure the guidelines are being followed.

19. Doctors are also provided with “VSS Doctors' Guide 2019/20” for their reference on proper vaccine storage and cold chain management, infection control practices and disposal of clinical waste, to ensure safety and quality of outreach vaccination activities.

### **Publicity and Information**

20. DH has close liaison with working partners and stakeholders, including HA, Social Welfare Department, Education Bureau, school principals, teachers, institutions serving persons with intellectual disability, RCHE, RCHD, as well as healthcare sector.

21. In 2019/20 season, publicity activities will be conducted through multi-prong approach and focus more on persons aged 50 to 64 years. New announcement videos on SIV and New API on pneumococcal vaccination will be broadcast in TV and radio. Other publicity includes KOL video broadcast in clinics, advertisements in social media, etc.

22. DH has set up a 24-hour Health Education Hotline (2833 0111) to provide more information about vaccines and vaccination programmes/ schemes, and have uploaded the information onto CHP website: (<https://www.chp.gov.hk/en/features/17980.html>). DH also operates an enquiry line (2125 2125) for public enquiry.

**Department of Health**  
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