

Information Paper

**The 2022/23 Vaccination Subsidy Scheme, Government Vaccination Programme,**  
**Residential Care Home Vaccination Programme**  
**and Seasonal Influenza Vaccination (SIV) School Outreach (Free-of-charge)**

**Aim**

1. Various vaccination programmes/ scheme in 2022/23 season will be launched on 29 September and 6 October 2022.
2. The winter influenza season is approaching. Given that the local seasonal influenza activity has been staying at low levels since February 2020, the overall immunity against influenza in the community is at present relatively low. We also noticed that there has been an increase in influenza activity overseas and therefore strongly urge the public to complete the recommended dosage of COVID-19 vaccines and the latest SIV as early as possible for better protection, thus minimising the risk of serious complications and death in the event of co-infection with COVID-19 and influenza.
3. This paper summarizes the arrangement of the SIV and pneumococcal vaccination (PV) under Government's various vaccination programmes/ scheme in 2022/23 season for District Councils (DC)'s information and support to promote vaccination to the community.

**Background**

4. SIV is a safe and effective means to prevent seasonal influenza and its complications. A person getting influenza and COVID-19 at the same time may be more seriously ill and has higher death rate. Influenza vaccination may reduce hospitalisation and length of stay. It is important to receive both SIV and COVID-19 vaccination.
5. The outcomes of invasive pneumococcal diseases are usually more severe among elderly. Pneumococcal vaccination is one of the most effective means of prevention. The Government has been providing free or subsidised 23-valent pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine (23vPPV) and 13-valent pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV13) to eligible elderly.

6. In last season (2021/22), the total number of SIV administered by the Government's various programmes was about 1,245,000 doses, representing a decrease of about 6 per cent from the figures for the same period in the 2020/21 season. The main decrease was noted in the 50-64 age group, which showed a roughly 10.5 per cent decrease in doses as compared with the amount in the 2020/21 season.

### **Various Vaccination Programmes/ Scheme in 2022/23**

#### *Vaccination Subsidy Scheme (VSS) – will be launched on 6 October 2022*

7. Eligible groups for subsidised SIV include Hong Kong residents of the following groups: persons of age 50 or above, pregnant women, children of age 6 months to less than 12 years (or primary school students), persons with intellectual disability, persons receiving disability allowance and recipients of standard rate of “100% disabled” or “requiring constant attendance” under the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance Scheme. Eligible groups for subsidised pneumococcal vaccination include Hong Kong residents of age 65 or above. Please find details in **Annex 1** and **Annex 3**.

8. Eligible persons can search the list of enrolled doctors and information about extra charge from the eHealth System (Subsidies) website (<https://apps.hcv.gov.hk/Public/en/SPS/Search>) and contact the chosen doctors/ clinics to arrange vaccination. Subsidy levels are HK\$260 per dose of SIV, HK\$400 per dose of 23vPPV and HK\$800 per dose of PCV13. Doctors may impose extra charge but some doctors will not charge any fee. Elderly persons can use health care vouchers for payments if the doctor has also joined the Elderly Health Care Voucher Scheme.

#### *Government Vaccination Programme (GVP) – will be launched on 6 Oct 2022*

9. Eligible persons can receive free SIV and/ or pneumococcal vaccination at designated clinics of Hospital Authority (HA) and Department of Health (DH). Please find details in **Annex 2** and **Annex 3**.

#### *Residential Care Home Vaccination Programme (RVP) – will be launched on 29 Sep 2022*

10. Eligible persons can receive free SIV and/ or pneumococcal vaccination at residential care homes for the elderly (RCHE), residential care homes for the disabled

(RCHD), residential child care centres (RCCC) and designated institutions serving persons with intellectual disability. These homes/ institutions/ centres under RVP will arrange visiting doctors to provide vaccination. The reimbursement to doctors will be HK\$105 per dose. Please refer to **Annex 2** and **Annex 3** for details.

*SIV School Outreach (Free-of-charge) - will be launched on 29 Sep 2022 for kindergartens (KG)/ child care centers (CCC) and primary schools*

11. To increase SIV uptake rate amongst school children, DH will continue to implement the SIV School Outreach (Free-of-charge) programme for all primary schools, KGs, KG-cum-CCC and CCCs. The vaccines will be provided by the DH and a subsidy will be provided to the doctors at HK\$105 per dose.

12. Schools that will not join the “Free-of-charge” programme can join VSS School Outreach (Extra-charge-allowed). The subsidy is HK\$260 per dose. Doctors may impose extra charge but some doctors will not charge any fee.

### **Co-administration of COVID-19 vaccine and seasonal influenza vaccine**

13. COVID-19 vaccines can be co-administered concomitantly, or at any time before or after SIV under informed consent.

14. The lists of private doctors/ clinics providing COVID-19 vaccination, the list of doctors providing outreach vaccination and guidelines on arranging outreach vaccination activities are available at <https://www.covidvaccine.gov.hk/en/programme>

15. Community Vaccination Centres (CVCs) will allow persons aged 50 or above to get a free SIV concurrently when they are there for COVID-19 vaccination starting 6 October.

### **Arrange Outreach Vaccination Activities through Vaccination Subsidy Scheme**

16. District offices and community organisations planning to organise outreach vaccination activities in their venues can select doctors from the list at the Centre for Health Protection (CHP) website (<https://www.chp.gov.hk/en/features/46428.html>), and study the “Guideline on how to arrange Vaccination Activity at Non-clinic Settings” (**Annex 4**) at the CHP website for organisers to arrange outreach vaccination activities.

17. To prevent COVID-19, social distancing measures implemented at that time (<https://www.coronavirus.gov.hk/eng/reduce-gatherings.html>) should be observed. All participants should wear a mask, check body temperature, practice hand hygiene and keep appropriate distance.

18. The venue for vaccination should be kept well ventilated; and should be cleaned and disinfected after every session of vaccination activity, with 1 in 99 diluted household bleach (mixing 1 part of household bleach containing 5.25% sodium hypochlorite with 99 parts of water), left for 15-30 minutes, and then rinsed with water and wiped dry. For metallic surface, disinfect with 70% alcohol.

### **Vaccination Period**

19. As it takes about 2 weeks after influenza vaccination for antibodies to develop in the body to protect against influenza virus, members of the public are encouraged to get vaccinated as soon as possible for protection during the influenza season.

20. It is necessary to receive SIV every year because the circulating seasonal influenza virus strains may change from time to time and the composition of vaccine is updated every year to enhance protection. The immunity built up after vaccination in the last season will decrease and may become too low to provide protection in the next season.

21. For pneumococcal vaccination, there is no special vaccination period. Elderly who have not yet received vaccination should get vaccinated early. The free/subsidised vaccination programmes/ scheme will continue throughout the year.

### **Publicity and Information**

22. All along, DH has close liaison with working partners and stakeholders, including HA, Social Welfare Department, Education Bureau, schools, institutions serving persons with intellectual disability, RCHE, RCHD, RCCC, and healthcare sector.

23. Publicity activities are conducted through multi-prong approach. Announcement videos on SIV and on pneumococcal vaccination will be broadcast in TV and radio. Other publicity includes specialist interview, advertisements in social media, newspaper and public transport, etc.

24. DH has uploaded the information about vaccination programmes/ scheme onto CHP website: (<https://www.chp.gov.hk/en/features/17980.html>). The Programme Management and Vaccination Division of the Department of Health operates an enquiry line (2125 2125) for public enquiry.

**Department of Health**  
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