



本署檔號 Our Ref. : (2) in DH/VO/P1/3
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Dear Parents / Guardians of school children of kindergarten / child care center /
primary school,

2016/17 Seasonal Influenza Vaccination Arrangement for Children

Getting into autumn, the weather becomes cooler. While you are preparing extra clothing for your children, have you got ready for the coming winter seasonal influenza peak (usually in periods from January to March)?

Seasonal influenza (influenza) is usually self-limiting with recovery in 2 to 7 days. However, influenza may be complicated by bronchitis, chest infection or even death in some children. Influenza vaccination is one of the effective means to prevent influenza and its complications. Have you considered bringing your children to receive the vaccination?

You may wish to know that the Scientific Committee on Vaccine Preventable Diseases of the Centre for Health Protection has recently updated its recommendations, i.e. expanded the priority group of children for vaccination from “the age of 6 months to under 6 years” to “the age of 6 months to 11 years (under 12 years)”. To encourage children aged 6 months to under 12 years (or attending a primary school) who are Hong Kong residents to receive vaccination, the Government will provide free / subsidised influenza vaccination to them via the Government Vaccination Programme (GVP) and Vaccination Subsidy Scheme (VSS) respectively in the year 2016/17.

Under VSS, your children can receive a \$190 Government subsidy per dose of influenza vaccination from the scheme enrolled private doctors at their clinics or through their outreaching vaccination activities. You may find the list of VSS enrolled doctors in the CHP website (www.chp.gov.hk) and the enrolled doctors will display the VSS logo at their clinics.



If your family is receiving Comprehensive Social Security Assistance or holding valid Certificates for Waiver of Medical Charges issued by the Social Welfare Department, your children are also eligible for free influenza vaccination at Maternal and Child Health Centres (aged 6 months to under 6 years) or Student Health Service Centres (aged 6 years to under 12 years) of the Department of Health under GVP.

Inactivated seasonal influenza vaccine is very safe and usually well tolerated apart from occasional soreness, redness or swelling at the injection site. Some recipients may experience fever, muscle and joint pains, and tiredness beginning 6 to 12 hours after vaccination and lasting up to two days. If fever or discomforts persist, please consult a doctor. Immediate severe allergic reactions like hives, swelling of the lips or tongue, and difficulties in breathing are rare and require emergency consultation.

As it takes about two weeks after vaccination for antibodies to develop in the body, you are advised to bring your children for early vaccination when the programmes launch. Please remember to bring along your children's identity document and vaccination card when you go for vaccination.

The above vaccination programmes will commence in around October / November 2016. Please pay attention to the public announcement of the commencement dates in due course. If you wish to know more about the vaccination arrangement, you may visit the website of the Centre for Health Protection (http://www.chp.gov.hk/en/view_content/18870.html). For enquiries, you may contact the Vaccination Office at 2125 2125.

To strengthen the protection against influenza infection and its complications for your children, we sincerely encourage you to bring them to receive the seasonal influenza vaccination.

Yours sincerely,



(Dr M K THAM)

for Controller

Centre for Health Protection



衛生防護中心乃
衛生署轄下執行
疾病預防及
控制的專業架構
The Centre for
Health Protection is
a professional arm of
the Department of
Health for disease
prevention and
control

*We build a healthy Hong Kong and
aspire to be an internationally renowned public health authority*