

流感疫苗資助計劃
辦事處



Influenza Vaccination
Subsidy Scheme
Office

本署檔號 Our Ref. : (2) in DH IVSS/6-20/1

16 October 2008

To Principals / Child Care Centre Supervisors,

Influenza Vaccination Subsidy Scheme

Influenza vaccination is one of the effective means to prevent influenza and its complications. As the Scientific Committee on Vaccine Preventable Diseases under the Centre for Health Protection recommends children between the age of 6 months and less than 6 years to receive influenza vaccination so as to reduce influenza-related complication and hospitalisation rates, the Government will introduce the Influenza Vaccination Subsidy Scheme (IVSS) starting from November to encourage influenza vaccination of Hong Kong children of this age group. Children between the age of 6 months and less than 6 years will be subsidised HK\$80 per dose of influenza vaccine given by a private medical doctor. Children aged 6 years or above with proof of kindergarten or child care centre attendance in Hong Kong are also eligible for IVSS. I would like to solicit your assistance in making copies of the attached information leaflet (also downloadable from <www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/Information_leaflet_eng.pdf>), and dispatch them to your students' parents.

To receive the subsidy, parents need only to submit the completed Authorisation Form (attached to the information leaflet) and their child's identity document proving the child's Hong Kong resident status when they bring their eligible child to an enrolled doctor to receive vaccination. If the child is 6 years old or above attending kindergarten/child care centre, parents would have to show the child's student handbook/student card/pick-up card and provide a photocopy, or submit a Pre-primary Institution Certification Form with the school pre-stamped on the form. Schools may download the Pre-primary Institution Certification Form from <www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/preprimary.pdf>, complete and stamp the form with an official chop and give the completed and stamped form to parents who request for it.



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

For schools which plan to organise on-site influenza vaccination services with private doctors for their students, I would like to draw your attention that influenza vaccination is invasive in nature. Schools should consider carefully the issues relating to vaccinations in non-clinic settings (www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/Vaccination_in_non-clinic_setting_Eng.pdf). You should also comply with Social Welfare Department's/Education Bureau's guidelines on provision of paid services and avoid any doubtful practice of acceptance of advantages (Please refer to the Operation Manual for Pre-primary Institutions).

For more information on IVSS, please visit the IVSS website (www.ivss.gov.hk) or contact IVSS Office at 2125 2125.

Thank you very much for your assistance in this matter.

Yours faithfully,



(Dr. Jaime SIN)

Head, Programme Management and
Professional Development Branch,
Centre for Health Protection
Department of Health



PROTECT YOUR CHILD FROM INFLUENZA – JOIN INFLUENZA VACCINATION SUBSIDY SCHEME (IVSS)

What is IVSS?

To promote influenza vaccination among Hong Kong children between the age of 6 months and less than 6 years, the Department of Health (DH) will introduce IVSS in 2008/09. During the period 1 November 2008 through 31 March 2009, eligible children between the age of 6 months and less than 6 years are entitled to an \$80 Government subsidy per dose of influenza vaccine they receive from private medical doctors who enrol in IVSS providing influenza vaccination service to eligible children. Two doses of influenza vaccines are required for a child if he/she has not been vaccinated against influenza before.

Is my child eligible to receive Government subsidy under IVSS?

To be eligible for Government subsidy of \$80 per dose of influenza vaccine under IVSS, the child must be a Hong Kong resident AND:

- Between the age of 6 months and less than 6 years; or
- Aged 6 years or above but attending a kindergarten or child care centre in Hong Kong.

Children between the age of 6 months and less than 6 years from families receiving Comprehensive Social Security Allowance may receive free influenza vaccination from Maternal and Child Health Centres under the DH starting 3 November 2008 till 31 March 2009.

When should parents bring their child for subsidised influenza vaccination under IVSS?

IVSS will commence on 1 November 2008 and last until 31 March 2009. Parents are advised to bring their eligible children to private medical doctors enrolled in IVSS from 1 November 2008 onwards, and preferably before 31 December 2008. This will ensure that the child is adequately vaccinated before the arrival of the next winter influenza season, which usually comes during the first quarter of every year.

How do parents know which doctors have joined IVSS providing subsidised influenza vaccination?

Some private medical doctors, but not all, will join IVSS. Towards the end of October 2008, private medical doctors who enrol in IVSS will display an IVSS logo near the entrance of their clinic for parents' recognition. In addition, information about doctors who join IVSS and the fees that they charge will be posted at the IVSS website at www.ivss.gov.hk.



Logo



Mini-poster

Please note that doctors who have no IVSS logo near the clinic entrance may not provide subsidised influenza vaccination to children.

How much do parents pay the private medical doctor for influenza vaccination of children under IVSS?

Parents will pay a discounted fee (\$80 off the original fee) to private medical doctors who enrol in IVSS providing influenza vaccination service to eligible children. For example, if the original fee charged by a private medical doctor is \$250, then the parent will pay \$170. It is important to note that while the Government subsidy of \$80 per dose of influenza vaccine is the same for all eligible children, the fees charged by different private medical doctors may vary. For sake of transparency, private medical doctors will display their fees for influenza vaccination on an IVSS poster in the clinic waiting hall. Also, the IVSS website will list the fees charged by private medical doctors enrolled in IVSS.

If a parent cannot accompany the child personally to the doctor's clinic, can he/she ask the relative / teacher / domestic helper to bring the child there?

To receive IVSS subsidy, the parent must first authorise the representative by putting down information in the attached *Authorisation Form*. The form is also available at enrolled doctors' clinics or by downloading from the IVSS website.

STEPS TO TAKE FOR PARENTS TO BRING THEIR CHILD TO RECEIVE SUBSIDISED INFLUENZA VACCINATION FROM A PRIVATE MEDICAL DOCTOR

Vaccination period: 1-11-2008 to 31-3-2009

1. Select a private doctor enrolled in IVSS.
2. Bring along an identity document that would prove your child's Hong Kong resident status e.g. Birth Certificate or Hong Kong Identity Card or other identification documents for verification. If your child is 6 years and above but attending a kindergarten or child care centre, please also bring along your child's Student Handbook / Student Card / Pick up Card and submit a photocopy to the doctor; or submit a stamped Pre-primary Institution Certification Form.
3. Fill in the attached *Authorisation Form*. If you ask a representative (e.g., relative, teacher, domestic helper) to take the child to the doctor's clinic, you would have to fill in the form prior to visiting the doctor's clinic. The form is also available at enrolled doctors' clinic or by downloading from IVSS website (www.ivss.gov.hk). You must fill in the representative's name and identity document number in the *Authorisation Form*. The representative must bring along his/her Hong Kong Identity Card or other identity document.
4. Consult the doctor for an influenza vaccination.

PROTECT YOURSELF FROM INFLUENZA - INFLUENZA VACCINATION HELPS (2008-2009)

What is influenza?

Influenza is an infectious disease caused by various types of influenza virus. The virus mainly spreads by respiratory droplets. The disease is characterised by fever, sore throat, cough, headache, muscle pains, runny nose and general tiredness. It is usually self-limiting with recovery in two to seven days. However, it can be a serious illness to the weak and frail, or elderly persons, and may be complicated by bronchitis, pneumonia or even death in the most serious cases.

Why is influenza vaccination important?

Influenza vaccination is one of the effective means to prevent influenza and its complications.

Who should receive influenza vaccination?

In 2008-2009, the Scientific Committee on Vaccine Preventable Diseases recommends the following target groups for influenza vaccination in Hong Kong:

- Elderly persons living in residential care homes
- Long-stay residents of institutions for the disabled
- Elderly persons aged 65 years or above
- Persons with chronic illnesses*
- Children between the age of 6 months and less than 6 years
- All pregnant women
- Health care workers
- Poultry workers

Members of the other groups who wish to obtain influenza vaccine for their personal protection can consult their general practitioners.

** People with chronic illnesses mainly refer to those who have chronic cardiovascular (except hypertension without complication), lung, metabolic or kidney disease, who are immunocompromised, children and adolescents (aged 6 months to 18 years) on long-term aspirin therapy, and those with chronic neurological condition that can compromise respiratory function or the handling of respiratory secretions or that can increase the risk for aspiration or those who lack the ability to care for themselves.*

Who should not receive influenza vaccination?

People who are allergic to eggs, a previous dose of influenza vaccine or other vaccine components (e.g. neomycin, polymyxin) are not suitable to have the influenza vaccination. If an individual suffers from fever on the day of vaccination, the vaccination should be deferred till recovery.

What are the possible side effects of the vaccine?

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.

The influenza vaccine may rarely cause serious adverse events such as Guillain-Barré syndrome (1 to 2 case per million vaccinees), meningitis or encephalopathy (1 in 3 million doses distributed) and severe allergic reaction (anaphylaxis) (9 in 10 million doses distributed).

Does the vaccine work right away?

No. It takes about two weeks for antibodies to develop in the body and provide protection against influenza virus.

How much protection does the vaccine provide?

The vaccine currently in use helps to reduce the chance of influenza and its complications, but it does not offer 100% protection. Vaccinated persons may still develop influenza, especially when the circulating influenza viruses differ significantly from the vaccine strains. For prevention against influenza, vaccinated individuals should still maintain good personal and environmental hygiene practices, balanced diet, regular exercise, adequate rest, and no smoking.

Is it necessary to get vaccinated against influenza every year?

Yes. The circulating influenza strains may change from time to time. In accordance with the circulating strains, the vaccine composition is updated every year to enhance protection. Moreover, the immunity built up in a vaccinated person will decrease over time and may become too low to provide protection after one year.

How many shots of influenza vaccination will my child need?

To ensure adequate immunity against influenza, children under 9 years old who have never received any influenza vaccine are recommended to be given 2 doses of influenza vaccine with a minimum interval of 4 weeks. Those who only received 1 dose in their first year of vaccination are recommended to receive 2 doses in the following year. Thereafter, they need 1 dose each year.

My child has asthma. Should he avoid the influenza vaccination in case it gives him an attack?

Children having asthma are not contraindicated to have influenza vaccination with the inactivated vaccine ("flu shot"). On the contrary, people suffering from lung diseases such as asthma are recommended to have the vaccination because of an increased risk of complications associated with influenza.

For more health information, please visit the Centre for Health Protection website (www.chp.gov.hk) or call the 24-Hour Health Education Hotline of the DH 2833 0111.

Influenza Vaccination Subsidy Scheme (IVSS)
Department of Health
Authorisation Form

Official Use
IVSS No. _____

Notes: This Form must be legibly completed to be valid.
One form is required for each dose of influenza vaccine given to a child.
* Delete as appropriate

Part 1: (To be completed by parent or legal guardian)

Personal details of my child:

Name: _____ (English) _____ (Chinese)

* Birth Certificate / HKID / Passport Number: _____

Date of Birth: _____ / _____ / _____ (dd/mm/yy)

Residential Address: _____

If the child is attending a kindergarten or child care centre, please provide the name and address of the kindergarten or child care centre: _____

My child (please tick one box only):

- is between the age of 6 months and less than 6 years on the day of vaccination / was between the age of 6 months and less than 6 years on the day receiving the first dose
- is 6 years or above but attending a kindergarten or child care centre in Hong Kong (please show the doctor proof of the child's pre-school attendance e.g. student handbook/student card/pick up card, and submit a photocopy for record purpose, or submit to the doctor the stamped Pre-primary Institution Certification Form)

(Authorisation of representative, if applicable)

I hereby authorise the representative named below to bring my child to receive influenza vaccination:

Name: _____ (English) _____ (Chinese)

* HKID / Passport Number: _____

I declare that the information provided above is correct. I hereby authorise the doctor and/or the Medical Organization named in Part 2 of this Form to provide the above data to the Government for purposes as set out in the "Statement of Purpose". I note that I may be contacted to verify the information and vaccination given to my child.

Signature: _____

Date: _____ (dd/mm/yy)

Name: _____

Relationship: Father Mother Guardian

Telephone Number: _____

* HKID / Passport Number: _____

Part 2: (To be completed by the attending enrolled doctor and Medical Organisation)

I declare that:-

- (a) I have verified the vaccinee's personal details in Part 1 against the identity document and, where appropriate, also the proof of pre-school attendance, and the name and identity document of the person who brings the child for vaccination;
- (b) According to the best of my knowledge (*please tick one box only*):
- The vaccinee has not been given 2 doses of influenza vaccines in a previous influenza season and this is his/her first dose in this influenza season. He/She requires a second dose 4 weeks or more later.
 - The vaccinee has not been given 2 doses of influenza vaccines in a previous influenza season and this is his/her second dose in this influenza season.
 - The vaccinee has been given 2 doses of influenza vaccines in a previous influenza season and this is the only dose he/she requires.
- (c) I have informed parent/guardian/representative about the possible effects of the vaccination.
- (d) I have provided on _____(dd/mm/yy) to the above vaccinee one dose of influenza vaccination (the lot number of the vaccine given is _____) and completed his/her vaccination card; and
- (e) I have deducted the subsidised vaccine cost of HK\$80 from the medical fee that I charged this vaccinee.

Signature: _____ Date: _____ (dd/mm/yy)
Name: _____ HKMC Number: _____

(For doctors working for a Medical Organisation)

Name of the Medical Organisation: _____

Authorised Signature: _____

Official Stamp: _____ Date: _____ (dd/mm/yy)

Statement of purpose

Purposes of Collection

1. The personal data provided will be used by the Department of Health for one or more of the following purposes:
- (a) reimbursement, and the administration and monitoring of the Influenza Vaccination Subsidy Scheme;
 - (b) for statistical and research purposes; and
 - (c) any other legitimate purposes as may be required, authorised or permitted by law.

Classes of Transferees

2. The personal data you provide are mainly for use within the Department of Health but they may also be disclosed to other Government bureaux and departments, relevant professional registration bodies and third parties for the purpose stated in paragraph 1 above, if required.

Access to Personal Data

3. You have a right to request access to and to request the correction of your personal data under sections 18 and 22 and principle 6, schedule 1 of the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance. A fee may be imposed for complying with a data access request.

Enquiries

4. Enquiries concerning the personal data provided, including the making of access and correction, should be addressed to:
Administrative Assistant, IVSS Office, Centre for Health Protection, 4/F 147C Argyle Street, Kowloon Telephone No.: 2125 2125