

本署檔號 Our Ref. : (2) in DH/PMPD/P6-4/8
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6 October 2009

To Principals / Child Care Centre Supervisors,

Childhood 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 complications and hospitalisation rate, the Government introduced the Influenza Vaccination Subsidy Scheme (IVSS) last year.

With the active participation of the parents, the scheme was launched with great success and satisfactory vaccination coverage rate. Therefore, the Government will continue the scheme this year and rename it as Childhood Influenza Vaccination Subsidy Scheme (CIVSS), in order to encourage more Hong Kong children to receive influenza vaccination. Eligible 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 CIVSS. The vaccination period will start from 19 October 2009 to 31 March 2010, I would like to solicit your assistance in making copies of the attached information leaflet (also downloadable from http://www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/CIVSS_leaflet_eng.pdf), and dispatch them to your students' parents.

To join the scheme, parents can bring their eligible child and the following documents to an enrolled doctor to receive vaccination:



1. The duly completed and signed CIVSS - Consent to Use Vaccination Subsidy form (the form is downloadable from web, or obtainable from enrolled doctor);
2. Identity document to prove the child's Hong Kong resident status; and
3. If the child is 6 years old or above attending kindergarten/child care centre, parents would need to bring along the 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 at http://vs.chp.gov.hk/civss/files/preprimary%20certificate_e.pdf, complete and stamp the form with an official chop and give the completed and stamped form to parents requesting for it).

It comes to our knowledge that some schools are planning to organise on-site influenza vaccination services with private doctors for their students. I would like to draw attention from all kindergarten/child care centre that as influenza vaccination is invasive in nature, schools should consider carefully the issues relating to vaccinations in non-clinic settings (http://vs.chp.gov.hk/civss/files/non_clinic_setting_e.pdf). You should also comply with the 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 CIVSS, please visit the Centre for Health Protection website (<http://www.chp.gov.hk>) or contact Vaccination Office at 2125 2125.

Thank you very much for your support 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 SEASONAL INFLUENZA – Join Childhood Influenza Vaccination Subsidy Scheme (CIVSS)

Vaccination Period: 19 October 2009 to 31 March 2010

What is Childhood Influenza Vaccination Subsidy Scheme (CIVSS)?

To encourage seasonal influenza vaccination among eligible Hong Kong children, CIVSS will continue in 2009/10. During the vaccination period, children are entitled to an \$80 Government subsidy per dose of influenza vaccine they receive from private medical doctors who enrol into the scheme. Two doses of seasonal 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?

To be eligible for Government subsidy of seasonal influenza vaccine, 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 Assistance may receive free seasonal influenza vaccination from Maternal and Child Health Centres under the Department of Health starting 19 October 2009 till 31 March 2010.

When should parents bring their child for subsidised seasonal influenza vaccination?

CIVSS will start on 19 October 2009 and last until 31 March 2010. As it usually takes about two weeks for antibodies to develop in the body and provide protection against seasonal influenza virus, parents are advised to bring their children to participating private medical doctors before mid-December 2009 for vaccination. 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 CIVSS providing subsidised seasonal influenza vaccination?

Some private medical doctors, but not all, will join CIVSS. In October 2009, participating private doctors will display a CIVSS logo near the entrance of their clinic for parents' recognition. In addition, information about doctors who have joined CIVSS and the fees they charge will be posted at the Centre for Health Protection (CHP) website at www.chp.gov.hk.



Logo



Poster

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

How much do parents pay for seasonal influenza vaccination of children?

Parents will pay a discounted fee (\$80 off the original fee per dose) to the participating private medical doctors for seasonal influenza vaccination service. For example, if the original fee charged by the doctor is \$200, then the parent has to pay only \$120. It is important to note that the fees charged by different private medical doctors may vary.

For the sake of transparency, doctors will display their fees for vaccination on a CIVSS poster in the clinic waiting area. Also, the CHP website will list the fees charged by participating private medical doctors.

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

Yes. To receive CIVSS subsidy, the parent must first put down information in and sign the attached *Consent to use Vaccination Subsidy* form. The form is also available at participating doctors' clinics, Maternal and Child Health Centres, or by downloading from the CHP website.

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

1. Select a private medical doctor enrolled in CIVSS.
2. Bring along your child's Hong Kong Birth Certificate or Hong Kong Identity Card as a proof of your child's Hong Kong resident status. In addition, if your child does not have the above documents, bring along other travel documents that can prove your child's Hong Kong resident status. If your child is 6 years or 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* (The *Certificate* is downloadable from the CHP website www.chp.gov.hk).
3. Fill in the *Consent to Use Vaccination Subsidy*. 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 and sign the *Consent* prior to visiting the doctor's clinic.
4. Consult the doctor for seasonal influenza vaccination.
5. Staff in the clinic will open an eHealth account for your child / check your child's eHealth account through the eHealth System, and make use of the Government subsidy for seasonal influenza vaccination.

For more information about CIVSS, please visit the CHP website www.chp.gov.hk or call 2125 2125.

PROTECT YOURSELF FROM SEASONAL INFLUENZA - SEASONAL INFLUENZA VACCINATION HELPS (2009-2010)

1. What are the benefits of having seasonal influenza vaccination?

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 young children or the weak and frail, and may be complicated by bronchitis, pneumonia or even death in the most serious cases.

Seasonal influenza vaccination is an effective means to prevent seasonal influenza and its complications. In 2009-2010, the Scientific Committee on Vaccine Preventable Diseases recommends children between the age of 6 months and less than 6 years to receive seasonal influenza vaccination.

2. Can seasonal influenza vaccine prevent Human Swine Influenza (swine flu)?

Current information shows that seasonal influenza vaccine cannot prevent swine flu. Seasonal influenza vaccination may reduce the chance of complications and hospitalisations from human influenza, and it can also reduce the chance of genetic re-assortment and subsequent emergence of influenza strain with pandemic potential.

3. Is it necessary to get vaccinated against seasonal 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.

4. How many shots of seasonal influenza vaccination will my child need?

To ensure adequate immunity against seasonal influenza, children under 9 years old who are having the vaccine for the first time are recommended to be given 2 doses with a minimum interval of 4 weeks. Thereafter, they need 1 dose each year.

5. Is seasonal influenza vaccine safe?

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.

The seasonal 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).

6. Who should not receive seasonal influenza vaccination?

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

7. My child has asthma. Should he / she avoid the seasonal influenza vaccination in case it gives him / her an attack?

No. People suffering from lung diseases such as asthma are recommended to have the seasonal influenza vaccination because of an increased risk of complications associated with influenza.

8. Besides vaccination, what are the other protective measures against seasonal influenza?

The vaccine helps to reduce the chance of seasonal influenza and its complications. Vaccinated persons may still develop influenza, especially when the circulating influenza viruses differ significantly from the vaccine strains. Therefore, vaccinated individuals should continue to maintain good personal and environmental hygiene practices, keep a balanced diet, exercise regularly, take adequate rest, and not smoke.

For more health information,
please visit the Centre for Health Protection website www.chp.gov.hk or call 2125 2125.

Undertaking and Declaration

1. I declare the information provided in this consent form is correct.
2. I agree to provide my child's personal data in this consent form and any information related to this consultation for the use by the Government for the purposes as set out in the "Statement of Purpose". I hereby give consent to the doctor to transfer and release my child's personal data to the Government, its agents, or other persons authorised by the Government. I note that I may be contacted to verify the information and vaccination given to my child.
3. This consent shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of Hong Kong Special Administrative Region and I and the Government shall irrevocably submit to the exclusive jurisdiction of the Courts of Hong Kong Administrative Region.
4. I have read this consent carefully and fully understood my obligations and liability under this consent.

Signature: _____ Date: _____ (dd/mm/yyyy)
Name: _____ Relationship: Father Mother Guardian
Telephone Number: _____

Statement of Purpose

Purposes of Collection

1. The personal data provided will be used by the Government for one or more of the following purposes:
 - (a) for creation, processing and maintenance of an eHealth account, payment of subsidy, and the administration and monitoring of the Vaccination Subsidy Schemes, including but not limiting to a verification procedure by electronic means with the data kept by the Immigration Department;
 - (b) for statistical and research purposes; and
 - (c) any other legitimate purposes as may be required, authorised or permitted by law.
2. The provision of personal data is voluntary. If you do not provide sufficient information, you may not be able to use the subsidy.

Classes of Transferees

3. The personal data you provide are mainly for use within the Government but they may also be disclosed by the Government to other organisations, and third parties for the purpose stated in paragraph 1 above, if required.

Access to Personal Data

4. 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

5. Enquiries concerning the personal data provided, including the making of access and correction, should be addressed to:

Executive Officer,
Vaccination Office,
Centre for Health Protection,
4/F 147C Argyle Street, Kowloon
Telephone No.: 2125 2125