

29 September 2021

To: School Principals,

Catch-up Vaccination Arrangement for P.5 and P.6 Students of School Year 2019-20 and 2020-21 by School Immunisation Teams

The School Immunisation Teams (SIT) of the Centre for Health Protection of the Department of Health provides free immunization to school children under the Hong Kong Childhood Immunisation Programme (HKCIP) to prevent children from contracting infectious diseases. Every school year, SIT visits primary schools in Hong Kong to vaccinate P.1 and P.6 students, and also to P.5 female students starting from 2019/2020 school year, with the vaccines recommended by the HKCIP.

With the class suspension and deferred class resumption in all schools in Hong Kong due to the outbreak of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) in the last two school years, some of the primary schools students were not able to receive immunization according to the HKCIP schedule. While the world focuses on critically important new vaccines to protect against COVID-19, there remains a need to ensure children are not missing out on routine vaccinations during the pandemic, leaving them at risk of serious diseases like measles, polio and pertussis, which are highly contagious. Even the smallest decline in vaccination coverage can compromise herd immunity and lead to disease outbreaks in schools, with the potential to cause further loss of face-to-face learning, derailing school re-opening efforts. Moreover, outbreaks may further propagate to community-wide outbreaks, not to mention the illnesses and deaths caused to individuals. Immunisation is recognized as one of the most successful, safe and cost-effective health interventions and protects millions of people each year globally from serious and often deadly diseases.



In Hong Kong, with the long-established childhood immunisation programme, polio was eradicated locally in 2000 after global smallpox eradication in 1980; while the number of measles and rubella cases reduced drastically from several thousands in the 1980s and 1990s respectively to a low level of less than a hundred in the recent decade.

As part of the wider effort to ensure high vaccination coverage rate in the community, we need to solicit the support from all Secondary Schools to promulgate to parents the importance of their children's adherence to the HKCIP. In particular to remind newly promoted F.1 and F.2 students in your school to arrange catch-up vaccination appointment as soon as possible at SIT sub-office if they have not completed their vaccination in P.5 or P.6 due to class suspension and deferred class resumption in school year 2019/2020 and 2020/2021. Please find attached a template Notice to Parents (**Annex I**) for your reference to disseminate the message through your channel.

Parents may make an appointment for vaccination at 3693 4464/ 2615 8585 during office hours to respective SIT offices (addresses and service hours as listed in **Annex II**). On attending vaccination appointment, parents and students will need to bring along all vaccination records, Hong Kong identity card and/or SIT referral letter. We will check the immunisation records so as to arrange the required vaccination for the student.

Thank you for your kind assistance and ongoing support in safeguarding the health and wellbeing of all our students.

Yours faithfully,



(Dr YIM Wing Lam)
for Controller, Centre for Health Protection
Centre for Health Protection
Department of Health



衛生防護中心乃衛生署
轄下執行疾病預防
及控制的专业架構
*The Centre for Health
Protection is a
professional arm of the
Department of Health for
disease prevention and
control*

Dear Parents/ Guardians,

Important: Catch-up Vaccination Arrangement for F.1 and F.2 Students

With the class suspension and deferred class resumption in all schools in Hong Kong due to the outbreak of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) in the last two school years, some of the primary schools students were not able to receive immunization according to the Hong Kong Childhood Immunisation Programme (HKCIP) schedule.

Immunisation is among the most successful and cost-effective interventions to prevent serious and often deadly diseases. Immunisation programmes have led to eradication of smallpox, elimination of measles and poliomyelitis in regions of the world, and substantial reductions in the illnesses and deaths attributed to diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis. While the world focuses on critically important new vaccines to protect against COVID-19, there remains a need to ensure children not missing out on routine vaccinations during the pandemic, leaving them at risk of serious diseases like measles, polio and pertussis, which are highly contagious. Even the smallest decline in vaccination coverage can compromise herd immunity and lead to disease outbreaks in schools, with the potential to cause further loss of face-to-face learning, derailing school re-opening efforts. Moreover, outbreaks may further propagate to community-wide outbreaks, not to mention the illnesses and deaths caused to individuals.

In Hong Kong, with the long-established childhood immunisation programme, polio was eradicated locally in 2000 after global smallpox eradication in 1980; while the number of measles and rubella cases reduced drastically from several thousands in the 1980s and 1990s respectively to a low level of less than a hundred in the recent decade.

In this regard, parents of newly promoted F.1 and F.2 students should arrange free catch-up vaccination appointment for your children as soon as possible at Student Immunisation Teams (SIT) sub-office if they have not completed their vaccination in P.5 or P.6. Parents may make an appointment for vaccination at 3693 4464/ 2615 8585 during office hours to SIT offices (respective addresses and service hours as listed in **Annex II**). Parents may also choose to arrange catch-up vaccination at private doctors at your own cost.

To find out what vaccinations your child requires, you may review his/her vaccination record with reference to the HKCIP (<https://www.chp.gov.hk/en/features/102121.html>). Please find below a table of the vaccines provided to P.5 and P.6 students according to the HKCIP for your easy reference.

Grade	Immunisation recommended
Primary 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Vaccine - First dose¹
Primary 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Diphtheria (reduced dose), Tetanus, acellular Pertussis (reduced dose) & Inactivated Poliovirus Vaccine - Booster dose ● HPV Vaccine - Second dose¹ ● Hepatitis B Vaccine - Catch-up² ● Measles, Mump & Rubella (MMR) Vaccine - Catch-up²

¹ Starting from the 2019/20 school year, eligible female students receive the first dose of 9-valent HPV vaccine in Primary 5 and the second dose when they reach Primary 6 in the next school year.

² SIT provide Hepatitis B vaccine and MMR vaccine catch-up to Primary 6 students who have not received three doses of Hepatitis B vaccines according to the immunisation schedule or who have not completed MMR vaccination according to the immunisation schedule, respectively.

Diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis and poliomyelitis were all serious diseases and they had resulted in deaths, debilitations and disabilities in children in the past worldwide. Measles, mumps and rubella are highly contagious viral infections and are associated with serious complications which can cause disabilities and deaths. HBV vaccine immunization can effectively protect against hepatitis B infection, and reduce the risk of acquiring chronic hepatitis B infection, progressing to cirrhosis or liver cancer. HPV vaccination can prevent cervical cancer for girls of suitable ages before sexual debut.

Last but not least, may we also take this opportunity to encourage you to enroll to the Health Programmes at Student Health Service Centre of the Department of Health at the beginning of the new school year. Thank you very much for your attention and make an appointment with us early for catch-up vaccination.

Addresses and service hours of offices of School Immunisation Teams (SIT) of the Centre for Health Protection of the Department of Health:

Office	Address	Service Hours
Tsuen Wan Office	2/F, 115 Castle Peak Road, Tsuen Wan	Mon: 9:00 am - 12:45 pm 2:00 pm - 5:30pm Tue to Fri: 9:00 am - 12:45 pm 2:00 pm - 5:15 pm
Kowloon Office	Rm 215, 2/F, Centre for Health Protection, 147C Argyle Street, Kowloon	Tue, Thur: 9:00 am - 12:45 pm 2:00 pm - 5:15 pm
Lek Yuen Office	Rm 120, 1/F, Lek Yuen Health Centre, 9 Lek Yuen Street, Shatin	Tue: 9:00 am - 12:45 pm 2:00 pm - 5:15 pm
North District Office	Room 311, 3/F, North District, Government Offices Building, 3 Pik Fung Road, Fanling	Fri: 9:00 am - 12:45 pm 2:00 pm - 5:15 pm
Sai Ying Pun Office	Rm 12, 5/F, Sai Ying Pun Jockey Club Polyclinic Clinic, 134 Queen's Road West, Sai Ying Pun, Hong Kong	Wed: 9:00 am - 12:45 pm 2:00 pm - 5:15 pm
Yuen Long Office	Room 316, 3/F, Yuen Long District Office Building, 269 Castle Peak Road, Yuen Long	Thur: 9:00 am - 12:45 pm 2:00 pm - 5:15 pm