



本署檔號 Our Ref. : (5) in DH/ERPMB/PMVD/VS/SIVOP/P1-8/1  
電話 Tel : 2125 2128  
圖文傳真 Fax : 2984 9608

15 December 2022

Dear Supervisors/ Principals/ Teacher- in- Charge,

**Appeal for Promoting Seasonal Influenza Vaccination Uptake in Children and Adolescents**

Vaccination is one of the most effective ways to prevent seasonal influenza and its complications. Based on the recommendation on the priority groups for seasonal influenza vaccination (SIV) updated by the Scientific Committee on Vaccine Preventable Diseases on 21 October, children aged 6 months to under 18 years (or secondary school students) are eligible to receive free/subsidised SIV under various SIV programmes of 2022/23 season starting from 10 November 2022.

Influenza can cause serious illnesses in high-risk individuals and even healthy persons. Having secondary school students as another priority group for SIV could prevent possible school outbreaks and community transmission. This in turn could help relieve the healthcare system during the coming influenza season when influenza, SARS-CoV-2 and other respiratory pathogens might be co-circulating. To increase seasonal influenza vaccination (SIV) uptake amongst school students and to facilitate schools in arranging outreach vaccination, the Department of Health strongly encourages your school to arrange outreach seasonal influenza vaccination service at your campus to protect your students, if not yet done.

Should your school wish to organise school outreach vaccination activities, you may still enrol in the Seasonal Influenza Vaccination School Outreach (Free of Charge) Programme 2022/23. Under the Programme, all school students of the participating schools can receive free seasonal influenza vaccination, through Public-Private-Partnership (PPP) vaccination teams. Alternatively, you can invite doctors from the list published on the Centre for Health Protection (CHP) website under the Vaccination Subsidy Scheme School Outreach (Extra Charge Allowed) to provide subsidised outreach vaccination services for your students. Please refer to **Annex I** for details.

In addition, your school may also encourage students to receive SIV from private doctors who have enrolled in “Vaccination Subsidy Scheme (VSS)”. Information about enrolled doctors and the extra fees incurred has been uploaded to the CHP website (see **Annex I**).

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



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As the local seasonal influenza activity has remained at a low level over the past two years, the overall immunity of Hong Kong citizens against influenza is relatively low. Yet, an increase in level of seasonal influenza activity overseas is observed. With increasing social activities, influenza transmission could increase as anti-epidemic control measures are progressively relaxed, leading to potential co-circulation of influenza and SARS-CoV-2. Children are at risk of complications from these infections and SIV is an effective means to prevent influenza-related hospitalisation and death. Previous local data also showed that the majority of paediatric cases of influenza-associated severe complication/death did not receive influenza vaccination.

SIV can also reduce school absenteeism and reduce influenza transmission in the community. According to local experience, school outreach programme for SIV significantly improved influenza vaccine coverage. Vaccination reduces occurrence of influenza-like illness (ILI). Schools with outreach vaccination had significantly lower risk of ILI outbreaks in schools than schools without outreach vaccination. Please find attached template Notice to Parents for your reference (**Annex II**).

With the winter influenza season and holidays soon approaching, the Government strongly urges the public, especially children and adolescents to receive SIV for this season as soon as possible as it takes about two weeks to develop antibodies for protection against influenza virus infection.

Should you have any enquiries or wish to enrol into the School Outreach Programme, please contact us at 2125 2299/ 3975 4806.

Thank you very much for your support in advance.

Yours sincerely,  
Programme Management and Vaccination Division  
Center for Health Protection  
Department of Health

**2022/23 Seasonal Influenza Vaccination**  
**School Outreach (Free of Charge) Programme**

**Objectives of the Programme:** The Programme aims to facilitate schools in arranging outreach vaccination, so as to increase the seasonal influenza vaccination coverage for school children, to reduce school absenteeism, influenza related complications, hospitalisations and deaths, and to reduce influenza transmission in the community.

**Eligibility to join:** All school children of the participating schools can receive free seasonal influenza vaccination, through Public-Private-Partnership (PPP) vaccination teams\*. School may choose their PPP vaccination team through either *School Self-selection of Doctors* or by *DH-matching*.

✧ *School Self-selection of Doctors*

- i. Schools can choose a private doctor/ medical organisation from the list posted on the Centre for Health Protection website:  
<https://www.chp.gov.hk/en/features/101414.html>.

✧ *DH-matching*

- i. For schools which have not selected a private doctor/ medical organisation, DH would match a service doctor with the school.

\*For schools in remote areas (e.g. outlying islands) or areas requiring Closed Road Permit or Closed Area Permit (e.g. Lantau Island, Sha Tau Kok), DH may arrange DH Vaccination Team to provide the outreach vaccination service.

**Roles and responsibilities of schools:** Since schools are provided with vaccination services free of charge, they do not need to conduct tendering or quotation exercise when choosing a doctor. Schools are reminded to stay clear of associating with any improper financial (or advantage) transactions when choosing your service doctor through School Self-selection of Doctor.

Schools are responsible for:-

- 1) Distributing and collecting consent forms;
- 2) Verifying the particulars of the students provided in the consent forms;
- 3) Arranging vaccination venue;
- 4) Preparing the flow for vaccination day(s) (complete the 1<sup>st</sup> dose within 2 days)
- 5) Assisting in the operation of the vaccination team during the vaccination activities;
- 6) Cooperating with vaccination team to implement Infection Control measures for COVID-19; and

- 7) Providing locked cabinet(s) for temporary storage of clinical waste in case same day collection of clinical waste cannot be arranged.

### **Announcement of the application results**

The schools will be informed the **application and the matching results in due course**.

### **Remarks**

For schools that are not interested in joining the 2022/23 Seasonal Influenza Vaccination School Outreach (Free of Charge) Programme, they can invite private doctors from the Vaccination Subsidy Scheme (VSS) School Outreach (Extra Charge Allowed) (website: [https://www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/list\\_of\\_doctors\\_providing\\_vaccination\\_at\\_non\\_clinic\\_settings\\_en.pdf](https://www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/list_of_doctors_providing_vaccination_at_non_clinic_settings_en.pdf)) to provide outreach vaccination at schools. All school children of the participating schools can receive seasonal influenza vaccination with subsidy from the Government. Private doctors under the Scheme may impose **extra charges**. Schools can discuss with the private doctors for the type of vaccine to be used. School staff and students' family members can also receive vaccination under the outreach vaccination activity, but the Government only provides subsidy to persons of VSS eligible groups. Non-eligible persons can join the activity via self-payment.

Alternatively, schools may encourage students to receive seasonal influenza vaccination (SIV) from private doctors who have enrolled in "Vaccination Subsidy Scheme(VSS)". Enrolled private doctors display a VSS logo in their clinics. Information about enrolled doctors and the extra fees they charge has been uploaded to the CHP website (<https://apps.hcv.gov.hk/public/en/SPS/Search>).

**Notice Template**  
**2022/23 Seasonal Influenza Vaccination**  
**School Outreach (Free of Charge) Programme –**  
**Vaccination Arrangement for School Students**

XX December 2022

Dear Parents/Guardians:

As the local seasonal influenza activity has remained at a low level over the past two years, the overall immunity of Hong Kong citizens against influenza is relatively low. With increasing social activities, influenza transmission could increase as anti-epidemic control measures are progressively relaxed, leading to potential co-circulation of influenza and SARS-CoV-2. Children are at risk of complications from these infections and seasonal influenza vaccination (SIV) is an effective means to prevent influenza-related hospitalisation and death. Previous local data also showed that the majority of paediatric cases of influenza-associated severe complication/death did not receive influenza vaccination. With the winter influenza season and holidays soon approaching, the public, especially children and adolescents, are strongly encouraged to receive SIV for this season as soon as possible as it takes about two weeks to develop antibodies for protection against influenza virus infection.

Based on the recommendation on the priority groups for seasonal influenza vaccination (SIV) updated by the Scientific Committee on Vaccine Preventable Diseases on 21 October, children aged 6 months to under 18 years (or secondary school students) are eligible to receive free/subsidised SIV under various SIV programmes of 2022/23 season starting from 10 November 2022. Influenza can cause serious illnesses in high-risk individuals and even healthy persons. Having secondary school students as another priority group for SIV could prevent possible school

outbreaks and community transmission. This in turn could help relieve the healthcare system during the coming influenza season when influenza, SARS-CoV-2 and other respiratory pathogens might be co-circulating.

According to local experience, school outreach vaccination programme for SIV significantly improved influenza vaccine coverage. Vaccination reduces occurrence of influenza-like illness (ILI). Schools with outreach vaccination had significantly lower risk of ILI outbreaks in schools than schools without outreach vaccination.

Our school will arrange outreach seasonal influenza vaccination service at the campus. You are strongly encouraged to have your child receive SIV in the outreach activity for personal protection. Alternatively, you may also bring your child to receive SIV from private doctors who have enrolled in “Vaccination Subsidy Scheme(VSS)”. Information about enrolled doctors and the extra fees they charge has been uploaded to the CHP website (<https://apps.hcv.gov.hk/public/en/SPS/Search>).

Please visit the link to read the relevant FAQs for more information (<https://www.chp.gov.hk/en/features/100764.html>).

Yours faithfully,

Name of Principal/Teacher-in-charge