



本署檔號 Our Ref. : (12) in DH/ERPMB/PMVD/VS/SIVOP/P1-4/5
電話 Tel : 2125 2128
圖文傳真 Fax : 2984 9608

2 May 2023

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. To increase seasonal influenza vaccination (SIV) uptake amongst school students, 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, your school may still invite doctors participating in the Vaccination Subsidy Scheme (VSS) School Outreach (Extra charge allowed) Programme to provide SIV outreach vaccination services for your students. For more information on how to arrange outreach vaccination activities under this programme, please visit the following website:
<https://www.chp.gov.hk/en/features/100634.html>.

In addition, children and adolescents aged 6 months to less than 18 years (or secondary school students) are eligible to receive free or subsidised SIV at private doctors/clinics enrolled in the Vaccination Subsidy Scheme (VSS). For more information on the VSS, please refer to the CHP website: <https://www.chp.gov.hk/en/features/46199.html>.

Given that local seasonal influenza activity has been staying at low levels over the past three years, the immunity against influenza in the local community as a whole may be relatively weaker than in the past. Members of the public should stay vigilant against influenza as Hong Kong has entered the influenza peak season. The latest surveillance data of the CHP showed the overall local seasonal influenza activity has further increased in the week from April 2 to 8. Among the respiratory specimens received, the weekly percentage of detections tested positive for seasonal influenza viruses has increased from below 1% in the first week of March to 13.6% in the week ending April 8. The overall hospital admission rate with a principal diagnosis of influenza, particularly among persons aged under 12 years and those aged 50 years or above,

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THE GOVERNMENT OF THE HONG KONG
SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT &
VACCINATION DIVISION
3/F, TWO HARBOURFRONT, 18-22 TAK FUNG
STREET, HUNG HOM, KOWLOON

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has also continued its rising trend. 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, please contact our enquiry line at 2125 2299/ 3975 4806. Thank you very much for your support in advance.

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