

23 October 2026

Dear Principal / Teacher-in-Charge,

2026/27 Seasonal Influenza Vaccination School Outreach Programme (SIVSOP)

Appeal to Parents:

Arrange Seasonal Influenza Vaccination for Children Without Delay

In view of another recent fatal case of influenza infection in a child recorded by the Department of Health (DH), DH is writing to all schools (including child care centres) to urge them to call on parents to arrange seasonal influenza vaccination for their children as soon as possible.

Hong Kong entered the influenza season in late June this year and the influenza season has lasted for nearly four months by now. Currently, the local influenza activity remains at a high level. As at 22 October, a cumulative total of **25 cases of severe paediatric influenza infection** have been recorded in the current influenza season. Among these cases, 20 patients had recovered and been discharged from hospital, **one patient is in serious condition, two patients are in critical condition and two passed away**. Due to widespread influenza transmission in the community in recent months, there has been a significant increase in both the number of infections and severe cases. Since the new school year started in September, nearly 460 influenza-like illness outbreaks have been recorded in schools, affecting a total of approximately 2 800 persons. The Centre for Health Protection of the Department of Health anticipates that the influenza activity will continue to fluctuate at high levels in the coming weeks.

SIV is undoubtedly one of the most effective ways to prevent serious cases of seasonal influenza and its complications. Data analysis revealed that the rate of severe complications or death among unvaccinated children following influenza infection was **approximately five times higher** than that among vaccinated children. As it takes two weeks for the body to develop sufficient antibodies after receiving SIV, parents are advised to arrange vaccination for your children as early as possible to provide



effective protection.

The DH urges schools to arrange seasonal influenza vaccination school outreach activities at the earliest opportunity, and appeals to parents **whose children are unable to be vaccinated at school outreach activities** to bring them to private doctors' clinics participating in the Vaccination Subsidy Scheme (VSS) for influenza vaccination without delay. Under the VSS, eligible children can receive subsidised SIV from enrolled private doctors. Over 1 900 private doctors have participated in the VSS currently, providing services at over 3 200 service points across all districts in Hong Kong. Participating doctors may charge an additional service fee. Please refer to the “*List of Participating Doctors*” for individual doctors’ service fee arrangements, charging details and clinic addresses (<https://apps.hcv.gov.hk/SDIR/EN/index.aspx>).



“List of Vaccination Subsidy Scheme Participating Doctors”

The DH has prepared a notice template for schools to use as needed. Please distribute it to parents at your earliest convenience so as to avoid any delay in students receiving influenza vaccination.

Should your school have any enquiries regarding the above matters, please feel free to contact the DH at 2125 2128.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'King', written over a faint circular official stamp.

(Dr. FUNG King Lun, Sheldon)
for Controller, Centre for Health Protection
Department of Health

Date _____

2026/27 Seasonal Influenza Vaccination (SIV) School Outreach Programme (SIVSOP)

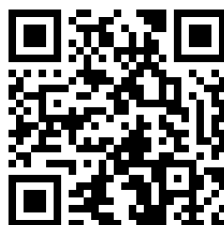
Notification to Parents – Self-Arrangement of SIV for Children Promptly

The 2026/27 Seasonal Influenza Vaccination Programmes had commenced on 17 September 2026. If your children were unable to be vaccinated at school outreach activities, please arrange vaccination for them at clinics of private doctors enrolled in the Vaccination Subsidy Scheme promptly.

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“List of Vaccination Subsidy Scheme Participating Doctors”

For further details about seasonal influenza vaccination, please visit the thematic website of the Centre for Health Protection at <https://www.chp.gov.hk/en/features/107880.html>, or contact the DH enquiry hotline at 2125 2125.