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26 November 2021

To: Supervisors / Principals of all Secondary Schools, Primary Schools,  
Special Schools and Schools offering Non-Local Curriculum

Dear Supervisor / Principal,

**COVID-19 Vaccination Programme  
An Update on Vaccination Arrangements  
for Primary and Secondary Students  
who are Aged 12-17 years**

The Secretary for Food and Health approved the lowering of the age limit for receiving the Sinovac CoronaVac vaccine (“Sinovac vaccine”) to age three on 20 November 2021. Having regard to the recommendations made by the Scientific Committee on Vaccine Preventable Diseases and the Scientific Committee on Emerging and Zoonotic Diseases under the Centre for Health Protection of the Department of Health (“JSC”) together with the Chief Executive’s expert advisory panel (“EAP”), the SFH agreed that adolescents aged 12 to 17 will be accorded priority to receive the Sinovac vaccine, with a view to extending to children of a younger age group at a later stage.

Vaccination is important to protect adolescents against symptomatic COVID-19 disease, and is effective in protecting against severe disease and death from COVID-19 infection. Vaccination is also vital to reduce community transmission, as well as to enable adolescents to resume normal school and daily life as soon as possible. The Government provides persons aged 12 to 17 years with the following two types of COVID-19 vaccines, which are used for preventing COVID-19 caused by SARS-CoV-2 virus:

- a) Comirnaty vaccine from Fosun Pharma / BioNTech which uses the mRNA technology platform (“BioNTech”). Currently one dose is recommended;
- b) Sinovac vaccine, which uses the inactivated virus technology (Vero cell) platform, starting from 2 December 2021. The recommended schedule consists of 2 doses administered 28 days apart.

Please note that students who have already received BioNTech vaccine earlier do not have to receive further doses of Sinovac vaccine.

The COVID-19 Vaccination Programme has taken the opportunity to enhance the measures in the furtherance of vaccination of students of primary and secondary schools. Please note that only one type of vaccine will be provided at each venue. Hence, administration of BioNTech vaccine and Sinovac vaccine will need to be arranged separately. The measures are set out below:

- a) Community Vaccination Centre (CVC) through group bookings made by schools

Time slots will be pre-arranged for your school through group bookings each of 20 to 30 persons and several time slots may be reserved.

Your school can make booking for transportation between CVC and school on the vaccination day with our school bus contractor direct. At least two school teachers are required to accompany the students for each school bus and to assist them at the CVC for each time slot. School staff as well as parents and are welcome to go together to BioNTech vaccine or Sinovac vaccine CVC that day to receive the vaccination.

- b) School outreach by COVID-19 Mobile Vaccination Station

Due to the decrease in demand for outreach services of BioNTech vaccine to schools, we have suspended the services. To tie in with the lowering of age limit of Sinovac vaccine, we may provide outreach vaccination service of Sinovac vaccine to your school by COVID-19 Mobile Vaccination Station. Please note that the

Mobile Vaccination Station requires a playground that have a direct access for truck to reach and park there, and services will run from Tuesday to Thursday. There should be at least 80 persons for each visit. School staff, parents and guardians are welcome to receive vaccination together that day. School is required to provide a name list of attending students, parents/ guardians and school staff when the request is made. If the outreach cannot be materialised, schools would be arranged to receive vaccination at CVC through group bookings as assigned by us. School staff as well as parents and guardians are welcome to receive vaccination that day.

c) Vaccination Subsidy Scheme (VSS) School Outreach

Schools can approach VSS doctors who would provide COVID-19 outreach vaccination service. Schools can refer to the list of VSS doctors providing outreach here:

[https://www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/list\\_vssdr\\_covid\\_non\\_clinic\\_eng.pdf](https://www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/list_vssdr_covid_non_clinic_eng.pdf).

Schools should refer to Guidelines on Arranging Outreach COVID-19 Vaccination Activities through Vaccination Subsidy Scheme (VSS) before arrangement of VSS School Outreach:

[https://www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/covid19vss\\_guidelinesforschool\\_outreach\\_eng.pdf](https://www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/covid19vss_guidelinesforschool_outreach_eng.pdf).

d) Self-arrangement by parents/ guardians and students

Parents and guardians can also make their own bookings at CVCs for their children through the COVID-19 Vaccination Programme website (<https://booking.covidvaccine.gov.hk/forms/index.jsp>) direct or use the same-day ticket arrangement. Persons aged below 18 should bring along the completed Consent Form to the CVCs for vaccination.

Students are also encouraged to go to private doctors or clinics under the Vaccination Programme, and make an appointment for vaccination of Sinovac vaccine direct. The list of private doctors/clinics (more than a thousand enrolled doctors at present) is available at the designated website of the Vaccination Programme (<https://www.covidvaccine.gov.hk/en/VSS>). Moreover, students can also make appointment at designated

Student Health Service Centres for vaccination of Sinovac vaccine (Annex 1).

The preparatory work and timeline, together with invitation email templates to parents / guardians, parent / guardian's consent form, school reply form, can be obtained from the website of the Education Bureau (<https://www.edb.gov.hk/en/sch-admin/admin/about-sch/diseases-prevention/early-vaccination.html>). Please indicate your choice of CVC group booking (item (a) above) or school outreach (item (b) above) by returning the school reply form by email to [cvp\\_school@csb.gov.hk](mailto:cvp_school@csb.gov.hk) as soon as possible for arrangement. For VSS School Outreach (item (c) above), please liaise with the VSS doctor who would provide outreach vaccination service.

Please visit the link to read the relevant FAQs for more information on the vaccination for adolescents ([https://www.covidvaccine.gov.hk/pdf/FAQ\\_aged\\_12\\_to\\_17\\_full\\_ENG.pdf](https://www.covidvaccine.gov.hk/pdf/FAQ_aged_12_to_17_full_ENG.pdf)). For more information about the Programme in general, please visit the website of COVID-19 Vaccination Programme at <https://www.covidvaccine.gov.hk>. Please contact the School Development Section of your district for enquiries.

Thank you for your support in advance.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized 'H' followed by a dot.

( Hermes Chan )  
for Secretary for the Civil Service