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10 March 2022

To: Supervisors / Principals of all Secondary Schools, Primary Schools, Special Schools, Schools offering Non-Local Curriculum, Kindergartens, and Kindergartens cum Child Care Centres

Dear Supervisor / Principal,

COVID-19 Vaccination Programme Updating of COVID-19 vaccination arrangements for students

On 4 March, the Government announced shortening the time intervals between doses of COVID-19 vaccines having regard to the joint recommendations of the Scientific Committee on Vaccine Preventable Diseases, the Scientific Committee on Emerging and Zoonotic Diseases under the Centre for Health Protection of the Department of Health and the Chief Executive's expert advisory panel on 25 February. The updated COVID-19 vaccination arrangements for students are as follows:

a) Sinovac CoronaVac vaccine (“Sinovac vaccine”):

Adolescents between the ages of 12 and 17: The first 2 doses should be administered 28 days apart. Adolescents aged 12 to 17 who have received two doses of Sinovac are recommended to receive a third dose of either Sinovac or Fosun/BioNTech Comirnaty vaccine (“BioNTech vaccine”) as soon as three months after the second dose.

Children between the ages of 3 and 11: Those who have received one dose of Sinovac vaccine for 28 days can receive the second dose of Sinovac vaccine.

b) BioNTech vaccine:

Adolescents between the ages of 12 and 17: The interval between the first dose and second dose of BioNTech vaccine is shortened from 12 weeks to 8 weeks. If they **have special needs** (such as leaving Hong Kong for further studies) and choose to receive earlier the second dose of BioNTech vaccine after 21 days, they must bring the signed parent/guardian's Consent Form on the day of vaccination and be **accompanied by their parents/ guardians to a vaccination centre for vaccination.**

Adolescents who had received two doses of BioNTech vaccine are recommended to receive a third dose of the same vaccine five months from the second dose, while Sinovac vaccine should be made available as an alternative based on personal preference.

Children between the ages of 5 and 11: Children aged 5 to 11 will receive a fractional dose of the BioNTech vaccine for adults. The recommendation on dosing interval between the two doses of the fractional dose of BioNTech for adults is shortened from 12 weeks to 8 weeks.

In response to expert advice, intramuscular injection of the BioNTech vaccine at mid-anterolateral thigh is recommended for children/adolescents. They may wear loosely fit, easy-to-roll-up or any other suitable clothing to facilitate vaccination.

Your school is welcome to arrange vaccination for your students by group bookings to Community Vaccination Centres or Children Community Vaccination Centres or school outreach, and to advance the original bookings for second dose of BioNTech vaccine from 12 weeks to 8 weeks. Please refer to the detailed logistics arrangement in the earlier letters of 20 January and 18 February of this Bureau, and the facilitation arrangement in the Education Bureau's letter of 28 February. If schools have difficulties or enquiries regarding vaccination arrangements, please feel free to contact the respective Senior School Development Officer / Senior Service Officer.

Apart from arrangements through schools, parents and guardians can also make their own bookings at Community Vaccination Centres, or designated general out-patient clinics of the Hospital Authority, or the designated Student Health Service Centres of the Department of Health for their children/ wards through the COVID-19 Vaccination Programme website (<https://booking.covidvaccine.gov.hk/forms/index.jsp>) direct. For children who are between 3 and 11 years old, apart from the completed Consent Form for the COVID-19 Vaccination Programme, they

have to be accompanied by an adult relative, domestic helper or school teacher on site to receive vaccination.

Parents/ guardians can also make an appointment to get the Sinovac vaccination through more than 1 000 private doctors or clinics that participate in the Vaccination Programme. For details, please refer to <https://www.covidvaccine.gov.hk/en/VSS>. They may also receive BioNTech vaccination for free at private healthcare institutions concerned under the Pilot Scheme (the contact details of enrolled private healthcare institutions is at https://www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/list_vssdr_covid_bnt_pilot_eng.pdf).

Please also note that immunocompromised students aged below 12 can now make appointments for receiving the third dose 4 weeks after receiving the first two doses of the Sinovac or the BioNTech vaccine. The relevant medical certificate should be brought to the designated vaccination venue on the day of third dose vaccination in order to confirm the eligibility of vaccination. A medical certificate template is available at the designated website of the COVID-19 Vaccination Programme ([www.covidvaccine.gov.hk/pdf/Medical Certificate of Third Dose Eligibility for Immunocompromised Persons.pdf](http://www.covidvaccine.gov.hk/pdf/Medical_Certificate_of_Third_Dose_Eligibility_for_Immunocompromised_Persons.pdf)).

For immunocompromised students aged 12 or above, they can, starting from 21 March, make an appointment to receive an additional dose, i.e. the fourth dose, with a time interval of 3 months since the third dose. The relevant medical certificate should be brought to the designated vaccination venue on the day of fourth dose vaccination in order to confirm the eligibility of vaccination. If the relevant medical certificate has been issued for their third dose vaccination, they can bring along the relevant certificate within the validity period when receiving vaccination.

Please visit the link to read the relevant FAQs for more information on the vaccination for adolescents and children ([https://www.covidvaccine.gov.hk/pdf/FAQ children adolescents ENG.pdf](https://www.covidvaccine.gov.hk/pdf/FAQ_children_adolescents_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,



(Hermes Chan)
for Secretary for the Civil Service