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7 November 2022

To: Supervisors / Principals of all Kindergartens, Kindergartens cum Child Care Centres, and Operators / Supervisors of Child Care Centres (including Special Child Care Centres) and Early Education and Training Centres

Dear Supervisor / Principal / Operator,

COVID-19 Vaccination Programme
Lowering of minimum age for receiving BioNTech vaccine
to six months old

The Government announced on 5 November that children aged six months to four years old can receive the toddler formulation of Comirnaty vaccine (BioNTech vaccine) from 9 November, giving parents/guardians one more choice of vaccines. Children in general has low resistance to diseases. If unfortunately children contract the COVID-19, the risk of severe after-effects, serious illness or death associated with the virus is high. According to the analysis by the University of Hong Kong researchers of 1,144 children aged 11 years or below who were hospitalized due to COVID-19 infection during the fifth wave of the epidemic, Children's Intensive Care Unit admission rate and mortality rate were 1.8% and 0.2% respectively, which is twice or more as high compared to seasonal influenza. Based on local research data, COVID-19 vaccine is highly effective in preventing severe cases. Therefore, parents/guardians are strongly recommended to arrange vaccinations for their young children/wards as soon as possible to better protect their health.

The Government continue to provide group bookings service at the Children Community Vaccination Centres/Community Vaccination Centres

as well as free transport service from and to kindergartens/ kindergartens cum child care centres (hereafter as “kindergartens”), as well as the child care centres (including special child care centres) and early education and training centres, so long as there are 10 or more children aged between 6 months to below 3 years old, or 20 or more children, parents/guardians or staff who will receive the vaccine.

Parents and guardians can also make their own bookings at Children Community Vaccination Centres through the COVID-19 Vaccination Programme website (<https://booking.covidvaccine.gov.hk/forms/index.jsp>) direct to receive the toddler formulation of BioNTech vaccine and there is no same day ticket service at the centres. Apart from the completed Consent Form for the COVID-19 Vaccination Programme (https://www.covidvaccine.gov.hk/pdf/Consent_Form_for_Fractional_BioNTech_Vaccination_ENG.pdf) and the original copy of the identity document, in the event that the identity document of a student aged 3 to 11 years does not contain any photograph of the student, such as a birth certificate, the student has to present his/her school document (such as a student’s handbook), which has the student’s photograph, to receive vaccination.

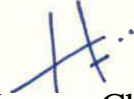
Children aged 3 to 11 years have to be accompanied by an adult family member, a domestic helper or a school teacher to receive vaccination; children aged below 3 years have to be accompanied by their parents/guardians in person when receiving vaccination. If the vaccination for children aged below 3 years is arranged by the school/centre in group, the accompanying teacher or staff should bring the aforementioned required documents and be responsible in clearly indicating the identity of each child.

For more information on the vaccination for adolescents and children, please visit the link to read the relevant FAQs (https://www.covidvaccine.gov.hk/pdf/FAQ_children_adolescents_ENG.pdf). Regarding the Programme in general, please visit the website of COVID-19 Vaccination Programme at <https://www.covidvaccine.gov.hk/en>.

If kindergartens have difficulties or enquiries regarding vaccination arrangements, please feel free to contact the respective Senior School Development Officer/Senior Service Officer of EDB. Child care centres (including special child care centres) may contact Child Care Centres Advisory Inspectorate of the Social Welfare Department at 3184 0804; and early education and training centres may contact Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services Section of the Social Welfare Department at 2892 5135 about the enquiries they may have.

Thank you for your support in advance.

Yours faithfully,



(Hermes Chan)

for Secretary for the Civil Service

[Updated on 28 November 2022: Starting from 28 November, the five Maternal and Child Health Centres (MCHCs) of Department of Health (DH) (Sai Wan Ho MCHC, Tang Chi Ngong MCHC, Lam Tin MCHC, Ma On Shan MCHC and Tsing Yi MCHC) will provide booked vaccination service to children aged between 6 months and 4 years with the toddler formulation of the BioNTech vaccine. In addition, starting from 6 December, the five designated Student Health Service Centres (SHSCs) of the DH (Chai Wan SHSC, Lam Tin SHSC, Sha Tin SHSC, Tuen Mun SHSC and Western SHSC) will provide BioNTech (paediatric formulation) vaccines for children aged 5 to 11 years. Please refer to the link below about the vaccination service hours: <https://www.covidvaccine.gov.hk/en/programme>]