

# Updates on Seasonal Influenza Vaccination and Pneumococcal Vaccination

**June 2022** 



## **Outline**

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## 1. Summary of influenza activity in 2021-22 in HK

- The seasonal influenza activity in HK remained at a low level after the end of 2019/20 winter influenza season in mid-Feb 2020
- As of mid-March 2022, all influenza parameters have reached and remained at a low level, without signs of an increase in influenza activity nor the arrival of influenza season locally





## 2. Influenza vaccination and the COVID-19 pandemic

- Co-infection of COVID-19 and influenza increases morbidity and mortality, and influenza vaccination might reduce the likelihood of hospitalisation and length of stay
- As the risk groups of COVID-19 and influenza are similar, it is important to ensure that people who are at greater risk of influenza infection (e.g. health workers, older adults and pregnant women) are prioritised to receive SIV
- Influenza transmission could increase when the non-pharmaceutical interventions and travel restrictions are lifted, leading to potential cocirculation of influenza and SARS-CoV-2, with additional burden on vulnerable populations and health systems.





## 3. Priority groups for SIV

In 2022-23, the Scientific Committee on Vaccine Preventable Diseases (SCVPD) recommends the following priority groups for seasonal influenza vaccination:

- 1) Health Care Workers [including care workers in Residential Care Homes for the Elderly (RCHE) or Residential Care Homes for Persons with Disabilities (RCHD)]
- 2) Persons aged 50 years or above
- 3) Pregnant women
- 4) Residents of Residential Care Homes (such as RCHE or RCHD)
- 5) Persons with chronic medical problems
- 6) Children aged six months to 11 years
- 7) Poultry Workers
- 8) Pig Farmers and Pig-slaughtering Industry Personnel





- Inactivated influenza vaccine (IIV), live attenuated influenza vaccine (LAIV) and recombinant influenza vaccine (RIV) are recommended for use in Hong Kong by SCVPD
- Those vaccine-naïve children aged below 9 years, two doses of SIV with an interval of at least four weeks are required





The recommended composition of the 2022-23 SIV by the SCVPD:

<b>Egg-based</b> quadrivalent SIV (e.g. IIV, LAIV)	Recombinant-based quadrivalent SIV (e.g. RIV)	
A/Victoria/2570/2019 (H1N1)pdm09-like virus	A/Wisconsin/588/2019 (H1N1)pdm09-like virus	
A/Darwin/9/2021 (H3N2)-like virus	A/Darwin/6/2021 (H3N2)-like virus	
B/Austria/1359417/2021 (B/Victoria lineage)-like virus		
B/Phuket/3073/2013 (B/Victoria lineage)-like virus		





#### **Indications**

 Recommended for people aged 6 months or above, including healthy people and those with chronic medical problems

#### **Contraindications**

 Contraindicated in those with history of severe allergic reaction to any vaccine component or a previous dose of any influenza vaccine

#### **Precautions**

- Individuals with mild egg allergy who are considering influenza vaccination can be given SIVs in primary care settings
- Individuals with a history of anaphylaxis to egg should have SIVs administered by health care professionals in appropriate medical facilities with capacity to recognize and manage severe allergic reactions
- Special precautions should be taken for individuals with bleeding disorders or on anticoagulants
- If individuals suffer from fever on the day of vaccination, the vaccination should be deferred till recovery

#### LAIV

#### **Indications**

 It can be used for people aged 2 to 49 years except those who are pregnant, immunocompromised or with other contraindications

#### **Contraindications**

- History of severe allergic reaction to any vaccine component or after previous dose of any influenza vaccine
- Concomitant aspirin or salicylate-containing therapy in children and adolescents
- Children 2 years through 4 years who have asthma or who have had a history of wheezing in the past 12 month\*\*

<sup>\*\*</sup> The UK recommended the use of IIV instead of LAIV for children with increased wheezing and/or needed additional bronchodilator treatment in previous 72 hours. Also, specialist advice should be sought on giving LAIV for children who require regular oral steroid for maintenance of asthma control or who have previously required intensive care for asthmatic attack. Canada recommended that individuals with severe asthma (currently on oral or high-dose inhaled glucocorticosteroids or active wheezing) or those with medically attended wheezing in the 7 days prior to vaccination should not use LAIV.

#### **LAIV**

#### **Contraindications (cont'd)**

- Children\* and adults who are immunocompromised due to any cause
- Close contacts and caregivers of severely immunosuppressed persons who require a protected environment
- Pregnant women
- Persons with receipt of influenza antiviral medication within previous 48 hours

#### **Precautions**

- Individuals with mild egg allergy who are considering an influenza vaccination can be given SIVs in primary care settings
- Individuals with a history of anaphylaxis to egg should have SIV administered by health care professionals in appropriate medical facilities with capacity to recognize and manage severe allergic reactions

\*According to Canadian guidelines, intramuscular influenza vaccination is the standard for children living with HIV. LAIV may be considered as an option for children 2-17 years of age with stable HIV infection on highly active antiretroviral therapy (HAART) and adequate immune function, and the decision should be made on a case-by-case basis.



#### **RIV**

 RIV contains haemagglutinin (a surface protein of influenza virus) that is produced by recombinant technology, and does not require egg in the production process.

#### **Indications**

RIV can be used for people aged 18 years or above

#### **Contraindications**

Hypersensitivity to any vaccine component of the RIV.

#### **Precautions**

- Special precautions should be taken for individuals with bleeding disorders or on anticoagulants
- If individuals suffer from fever on the day of vaccination, the vaccination should be deferred till recovery



#### Injection interval between influenza vaccines and COVID-19 vaccines

- Flexibility could be exercised to provide COVID-19 vaccines with seasonal influenza vaccine on the same visit under informed consent for administrative convenience and achieving better coverage.
- The same principle would also apply to similar settings including residential care homes.





## 5. Recommendation on pneumococcal vaccination

SCVPD's Recommendation on use of pneumococcal vaccines for high-risk individuals in July 2016

	Age 65 years and above
Without high risk conditions <sup>^</sup>	Either a single dose of PCV13 or a single dose of 23vPPV
Individuals with high risk conditions who have not received any pneumococcal vaccines	One dose of PCV13 followed by one dose of 23vPPV 1 year later
Individuals <b>with</b> high risk conditions^ who have received 23vPPV	Single dose of PCV13 1 year after previous 23vPPV vaccination
Individuals with high risk conditions^ who have received PCV13	Single dose of 23vPPV 1 year after previous PCV13 vaccination



Remarks: PCV13 is not subsidised under Vaccination Subsidy Scheme

## 5. Recommendation on pneumococcal vaccination

#### **^High risk conditions include the following:**

- (a) History of invasive pneumococcal disease
- (b) Immunocompromised states:
  - Asplenia, HIV/AIDS, primary immunodeficiency
  - Immunodeficiencies related to malignancy and transplantation
  - Immunodeficiencies related to use of immunosuppressive drugs / systemic steroid
- (c) Chronic disease:
  - Chronic cardiac, pulmonary, liver or renal disease
  - Diabetes mellitus or Cerebrospinal fluid leakage
- (d) With cochlear implants

(Essential hypertension per se is not considered as a high risk condition)

Different factors such as age and clinical condition may affect the risk of pneumococcal disease. Patients with high-risk conditions should discuss with their attending doctors on the most appropriate vaccination regimen.





## 5. Recommendation on pneumococcal vaccination

Under the Government Vaccination Programme and Vaccination Subsidy Scheme, aside from the above list of high-risk conditions, elderly 65 years or above with chronic metabolic diseases, obesity (BMI 30 or above), chronic neurological conditions or those with financial difficulties are eligible for free/subsidised pneumococcal vaccination.





#### Latest update:

- For immunocompentent adults aged 18 to 59 years without prior COVID-19 infection history receiving BioNTech vaccine:
  - The recommended 1<sup>st</sup> / 2<sup>nd</sup> dose interval is lengthened from 3 weeks to 8 weeks (56 days)\*
  - A longer 1<sup>st</sup> / 2<sup>nd</sup> dose interval can provide a higher vaccine effectiveness and potentially lower the risk of myocarditis/ pericarditis.
  - \*The 2<sup>nd</sup> dose can still be administered at a minimum of 3 weeks for persons with personal needs, who have taken into consideration of their own risks and benefits, with informed consent.





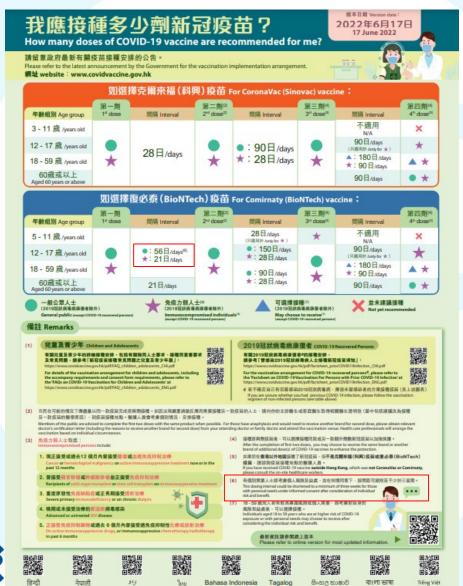
## Information for general public and healthcare professionals

- https://www.covidvaccine.gov.hk/en/
  - Latest recommendations
  - Frequently Asked Questions
  - Factsheets for children & adolescent, RCH residents, recovered persons, etc.
  - Etc.
- Vaccine pass
   https://www.coronavirus.gov.hk/eng/vaccine-pass.html









 Recommendation on the number of doses and dose interval







Recommendation for persons with previous COVID-19 infection without previous vaccination





COVID-19 Vaccination for Recovered Persons series 2



I got COVID-19 and have received\*
COVID-19 vaccine before, should I
still receive the vaccine?

Vaccination schedule for persons recovered from a COVID-19 infection who **have received** COVID-19 vaccine before is given in the table below. They may choose to receive BioNTech\* or Sinovac\* as any dose of vaccine after recovery.

Vaccination before infection*	Interval between recovery* to 1st dose after recovery o	Interval between 1st and 2nd dose after recovery
Have received one dose of vaccine before infection (Comirnaty (BioNTech) or CoronaVac (Sinovac))	18 years old or above: 90 days 5-17 years old: 150 days* (have received 1 dose of BioNTech before infection) 3-17 years old: 90 days (have received 1 dose of Sinovac before infection)	Aged 60 years or above: 90 days Aged 18-59 years with higher risk or personal need may choose to receive: 180 days
Have received two doses of vaccine before infection (BioNTech or Sinovac)	Aged 60 years or above: 90 days Aged 18-59 years with higher risk or personal need may choose to receive <sup>4</sup> : 180 days	No need for further doses
Have received three or more doses Or of vaccine before infection (BioNTech or Sinovac)	No need for further doses	

- Person whose first dose was received within 14 days before infection should receive vaccine as if they have not been vaccinated. Person whose second dose was received within 14 days before infection should receive vaccine as if they have received one dose of vaccine before infection. Person whose third dose was received within 14 days before infection should receive vaccine as if they have received two doses of vaccine before infection.
- \* Sinovac vaccine for 3 years or above and BioNTech vaccine for 5 years or above
- \* Recovery is 14 days after the date of first documented positive test (nucleic acid test or rapid antigen test). Discharge letter is accepted as record of infection or recovery for arrangement of vaccination and transitional arrangement of Vaccine Pass
- <sup>a</sup> Recovered persons may receive their next dose of COVID-19 vaccine for personal reasons (e.g. to study abroad or to fulfil a requirement for overseas travel) at a shorter interval of no less than 28 days after recovery (except<sup>a</sup>)
- ^ For 5-17 years old who have received 1 dose of BioNTech before infection, another dose of BioNTech (or Sinovac) vaccine is allowed 150 days after recovery to cater for personal need (e.g. studying overseas) if informed consent is obtained

Vaccination record will include the accumulated vaccination information prior to infection and after recovery

Those unvaccinated before infection should follow their vaccination regimen

Adults living in residential care homes (RCHs) should follow the vaccination regimen for RCHs

Immunocompromised persons should follow their vaccination regimen

Persons who are unsure if they had previous COVID-19 infection may receive vaccination as if they have not been infected





Recommendation for persons with previous COVID-19 infection with previous vaccination





#### Information for healthcare professionals

- Consensus Interim Recommendations on the Use of COVID-19 Vaccines in Hong Kong https://www.chp.gov.hk/en/static/24005.html
- Interim Guidance Notes On Common Medical
  Diseases and COVID-19 Vaccination In Primary Care
  Settings
  <a href="https://www.covidvaccine.gov.hk/pdf/Guidance\_Notes.pdf">https://www.covidvaccine.gov.hk/pdf/Guidance\_Notes.pdf</a>



- Doctors' Guide
   https://www.covidvaccine.gov.hk/pdf/VSS\_DoctorsGuide.pdf
- Etc.





## 7. More Information

- CHP website https://www.chp.gov.hk/en/features/17980.html
- Recommendations on Seasonal Influenza Vaccination for the 2022-23 Season in Hong Kong
  (April 2022) of the Scientific Committee on Vaccine Preventable Diseases
   <a href="https://www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/recommendations\_on\_seaonal\_influenza\_vaccination\_for\_the\_2022\_23\_season\_in\_hong\_kong\_25\_april.pdf">https://www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/recommendations\_on\_seaonal\_influenza\_vaccination\_for\_the\_2022\_23\_season\_in\_hong\_kong\_25\_april.pdf</a>
- Updated Recommendations on the Use of Pneumococcal Vaccines for High-risk Individuals
  (July 2016) of the Scientific Committee on Vaccine Preventable Diseases
  <a href="http://www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/updated\_recommendations\_on\_the\_use\_of\_pneumococcal\_vaccines\_amended\_120116\_clean\_2.pdf">http://www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/updated\_recommendations\_on\_the\_use\_of\_pneumococcal\_vaccines\_amended\_120116\_clean\_2.pdf</a>
- Consensus Interim Recommendations on the Use of COVID-19 Vaccines in Hong Kong https://www.chp.gov.hk/en/static/24005.html
- Hong Kong Reference Framework for Preventive Care for Children in Primary Care Settings Module on Immunisation https://www.fhb.gov.hk/pho/rfs/english/reference\_framework/pre\_care\_for\_child.html





## 7. More Information

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: https://www.chp.gov.hk/en/features/17980.html





# Thank You



