

Elderly Receive



Pneumococcal Vaccination

Let's get
vaccinated!



Centre for Health Protection



Department of Health

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Why do elderly need to receive pneumococcal vaccination?

Although pneumococcal infection generally causes mild illnesses such as sinus or middle ear infections, it may also cause severe or even life-threatening invasive pneumococcal diseases (IPD) such as bacteremic pneumonia, sepsis, and meningitis. The outcomes for IPD are usually more severe among elderly. Hence, pneumococcal vaccination is especially important for the elderly.

2

What type of pneumococcal vaccine should elderly receive?

The Government will provide **free** or **subsidised** pneumococcal vaccination to Hong Kong residents of age 65 years or above as follows:

Elderly without **high-risk conditions***:

- who have not received pneumococcal vaccination before, should receive one dose of 23-valent pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine (23vPPV);
- who have already received 23vPPV or 13-valent pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV13) before, do not need mop up vaccination.

Elderly with **high-risk conditions***:

- who have not received pneumococcal vaccination before, should receive one dose of PCV13, followed by one dose of 23vPPV **one year later**;
- who have already received 23vPPV should receive one dose of PCV13 **one year after** previous 23vPPV administration;
- who have already received PCV13, should receive one dose of 23vPPV **one year after** previous PCV13 administration.

3

Where can elderly go for pneumococcal vaccination?

2021/22

疫苗資助計劃

Vaccination
Subsidy Scheme



Elderly can receive pneumococcal vaccination(s) from private doctors enrolled in the Vaccination Subsidy Scheme **with subsidy** provided by the Government. In

2021/22, subsidy for one dose of 23vPPV is HK\$300 and subsidy for one dose of PCV13 is HK\$760. Doctors may impose extra fee, some may not charge extra fee. Elderly can use health care vouchers (HCV) to pay extra fee if the doctor has also joined the HCV Scheme.

Elderly can receive pneumococcal vaccination **free of charge** at public clinics under the Government Vaccination Programme if fulfill the conditions below:

- have **high-risk conditions***, and attending public clinics or are in-patients of Hospital Authority; or
- receiving Comprehensive Social Security Assistance or holding valid Certificate for Waiver of Medical Charges.

Elderly should bring along their Hong Kong resident identity document and all their vaccination record(s) (such as vaccination cards) to get the vaccination services. Doctors would check the vaccination record before giving the appropriate vaccine.

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What are the possible adverse reactions following 23vPPV administration?

The 23vPPV have been demonstrated to be safe. Common adverse reactions include slight swelling and tenderness at the injection site shortly following injection but most resolve within two days. Fever, muscle aches or more severe local reactions are uncommon.

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What are the possible adverse reactions following PCV13 administration?

The PCV13 have been demonstrated to be safe. Common adverse reactions include slight swelling and tenderness at the injection site shortly following injection but most resolve within two days. Some may experience mild fever, fatigue, headache, chills, or muscle pain. Severe pain or difficulty in moving the arm where the shot was given was very rare.



***high-risk conditions include:**

- History of invasive pneumococcal disease, cerebrospinal fluid leakage or cochlear implant
- Chronic cardiovascular (except hypertension without complication), lung, liver or kidney diseases
- Metabolic diseases including diabetes mellitus or obesity (Body Mass Index 30 or above)
- Immunocompromised states related to weakened immune system due to conditions such as asplenia, Human Immunodeficiency Virus infection / Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome or cancer / steroid treatment
- Chronic neurological conditions that can compromise respiratory functions, the handling of respiratory secretions, increase the risk for aspiration or those who lack the ability to take care of themselves

Enquiry

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**CHP website
Vaccination Schemes**

www.chp.gov.hk

**Health Education Infoline of
the Department of Health**

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Vaccination Schemes