

## **Influenza Vaccination Subsidy Scheme**

### **About the Scheme 2008/09**

#### **Background**

The Department of Health will introduce an Influenza Vaccination Subsidy Scheme (IVSS) to encourage influenza vaccination of Hong Kong children between the age of 6 months and less than 6 years. During the period 1 November 2008 through 31 March 2009, Government will subsidise HK\$80 per dose of influenza vaccine given to children eligible under the Scheme. Parents will pay a discounted fee (\$80 off the original fee) to private medical doctors who enrol in the scheme providing influenza vaccination service to eligible children. The Government will reimburse the enrolled doctor.

The scientific basis of influenza vaccination for children comes from the Scientific Committee on Vaccine Preventable Diseases under the Centre for Health Protection. In June 2008, the Scientific Committee recommended children aged 6 months to 5 years (in other words, less than 6 years old) to receive influenza vaccination because of higher influenza-related hospitalisation rate. The recommendation can be viewed at:

[http://www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/sas6\\_Kitemark\\_for\\_the\\_0809\\_recommendation\\_eng.pdf](http://www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/sas6_Kitemark_for_the_0809_recommendation_eng.pdf)

#### **Eligible Children**

Children are eligible to be covered by IVSS if they are Hong Kong residents AND meet either of the following conditions:

- (i) between the age of 6 months and less than 6 years; or
- (ii) attending a kindergarten or child care centre in Hong Kong.

#### **Learn more about IVSS**

- For parents and general public, please refer to Parents' Guide on IVSS.
  - For medical practitioners, please refer to Doctors' Guide on IVSS.
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