

PROTECT YOUR CHILD FROM SEASONAL INFLUENZA – Join Childhood Influenza Vaccination Subsidy Scheme (CIVSS)

Vaccination Period: 1 November 2010 to 31 March 2011

What is Childhood Influenza Vaccination Subsidy Scheme (CIVSS)?

To encourage seasonal influenza vaccination (influenza vaccine) among eligible Hong Kong children, CIVSS will continue in 2010/11. During the vaccination period, children are entitled to an \$80 Government subsidy per dose of influenza vaccine they receive from private medical doctors who enrol into the Scheme. Two doses of influenza vaccines are required for a child if he/she has not been vaccinated against influenza before.

Is my child eligible to receive Government subsidy?

To be eligible for Government subsidy of influenza vaccine, the child must be a Hong Kong resident AND:

- Between the age of 6 months and less than 6 years; or
- Aged 6 years or above but attending a kindergarten or child care centre in Hong Kong.

Children between the age of 6 months and less than 6 years from families receiving Comprehensive Social Security Assistance may receive free influenza vaccination from Maternal and Child Health Centres of the Department of Health starting 1 November 2010 till 31 March 2011.

When should parents bring their child for subsidised influenza vaccination?

CIVSS will start on 1 November 2010 and last until 31 March 2011. As it usually takes about two weeks for antibodies to develop in the body and provide protection against seasonal influenza virus, parents are advised to bring their children to participating private medical doctors for vaccination as soon as possible. This will ensure that the child is adequately vaccinated before arrival of the next winter influenza season, which usually comes during the first quarter of every year.

How do parents know which doctors have joined CIVSS providing subsidised influenza vaccination?

Some private medical doctors, but not all, will join CIVSS. In November 2010, participating private doctors will display a CIVSS logo near the entrance of their clinic for parents' recognition. In addition, information about doctors who have joined CIVSS and the fees they charge will be uploaded at the Centre for Health Protection (CHP) website at www.chp.gov.hk



Logo



Poster

Please note that doctors who have no CIVSS logo displayed near the clinic entrance may not provide subsidised vaccination to children.

How much do parents pay for influenza vaccination of children?

Parents will pay a discounted fee (\$80 off the original fee per dose) to the participating private medical doctors for influenza vaccination service. For example, if the original fee charged by the doctor is \$200, under the CIVSS, the parent only has to pay \$120. It is important to note that the fees charged by different private medical doctors may vary.

For the sake of transparency, doctors will display their fees for vaccination on a CIVSS poster in the clinic waiting area. Also, the CHP website will list the fees charged by participating private medical doctors.

If the parent cannot accompany the child personally to the doctor's clinic, can he/she ask a relative / teacher / domestic helper to bring the child there?

Yes. To receive CIVSS subsidy, the parent must first duly complete and sign the attached *Consent to Use Vaccination Subsidy* form. The form is also available at participating doctors' clinics, Maternal and Child Health Centres of the Department of Health, or by downloading from the CHP website.

STEPS TO TAKE FOR PARENTS TO BRING THEIR CHILD TO RECEIVE SUBSIDISED SEASONAL INFLUENZA VACCINATION FROM A PRIVATE MEDICAL DOCTOR

1. Select a private medical doctor enrolled in CIVSS.
2. Bring along your child's Hong Kong Birth Certificate or Hong Kong Identity Card as a proof of your child's Hong Kong resident status. However, if your child does not have the above documents, you have to bring along other travel documents that can prove your child's Hong Kong resident status. If your child is 6 years or above but attending a kindergarten or child care centre, please also bring along your child's Student Handbook / Student Card / Pick Up Card and submit a photocopy to the doctor; or submit a stamped Pre-primary Institution Certification Form (The Certificate is downloadable from the CHP website www.chp.gov.hk).
3. Bring along all your child's vaccination record(s) for doctor's reference.
4. Consult the doctor for your child's vaccination(s) and indicate your wish to use the subsidy.
5. Duly complete and sign the *Consent to Use Vaccination Subsidy*. If you ask a representative (e.g., relative, teacher, domestic helper) to take the child to the doctor's clinic, you would have to fill in and sign the Consent prior to visiting the doctor's clinic.
6. Staff in the clinic will open an eHealth account for your child / check your child's eHealth account through the eHealth System.
7. Vaccination will be provided to your child.
8. Make use of the Government subsidy for payment.
9. Keep the vaccination record(s) properly.
10. Staff of the Department of Health may contact you to verify whether your child has received vaccination and used subsidy.

PROTECT YOUR CHILD FROM SEASONAL INFLUENZA - SEASONAL INFLUENZA VACCINATION HELPS (2010-2011)

1. Why children require seasonal influenza vaccination?

The Scientific Committee on Vaccine Preventable Diseases of the Centre for Health Protection recommends children between the age of 6 months and less than 6 years to receive seasonal influenza vaccination (influenza vaccine) in 2010/11 because it is an effective means to protect them from seasonal influenza (influenza) and its complications.

Influenza is an infectious disease caused by various types of influenza virus. It is usually self-limiting with recovery in two to seven days. However, it can be a serious illness to young children or the weak and frail, and may be complicated by bronchitis, pneumonia or even death in the most serious cases.

2. What kinds of influenza vaccines are there? How to select for my child?

There are two types of influenza vaccines licensed in Hong Kong. The "flu shot" is an inactivated trivalent influenza vaccine (inactivated vaccine) containing killed virus and is given by injection. The live attenuated influenza vaccine contains weakened viruses and is a nasal-spray vaccine. Both vaccines are effective, but they are suitable for different people. Healthy children aged 2 years or above can choose to receive either inactivated or live attenuated vaccine if they have no contraindication. Please consult your doctor for details.

3. Inactivated vaccine:

Who are suitable to receive the vaccine? Who are not? What are the possible side-effects?

Most inactivated vaccines are licensed for use among persons aged 6 months or above, including those who are healthy, pregnant and those with chronic medical illnesses. However, people who are allergic to a previous dose of inactivated vaccine or its other vaccine components (e.g. neomycin, polymyxin) or egg are not suitable to have the vaccine. Persons with a history of Guillain-Barré Syndrome (GBS) developed within 8 weeks after receiving influenza vaccine should consult a doctor before receiving the vaccination. If a person suffers from fever on the day of vaccination, the vaccination should be deferred till recovery.

Inactivated vaccine given by injection is usually well tolerated apart from occasional soreness, redness or swelling at the injection site. Some recipients may experience fever, muscle and joint pains, and tiredness beginning 6 to 12 hours after vaccination and lasting up to two days. If fever or discomfort persists, please consult the doctor. Immediate severe allergic reactions like rash, swelling of the lips or tongue, and difficulties in breathing are rare and require emergency medical attention.

Influenza vaccination may rarely be followed by serious adverse events such as GBS, inflammation of brain membranes or brain disease and severe allergic reaction. However, influenza vaccination may not necessarily have causal relations with these adverse events.

4. Live attenuated vaccine:

Who are suitable to receive the vaccine? Who are not? What are the possible side-effects?

Live attenuated vaccine is only licensed for use among healthy non-pregnant persons aged 2 to 49 years, and should not be given to people with chronic illnesses that may predispose them to complications following influenza infection.

Besides, the vaccine is not suitable for those who have allergic history to live attenuated vaccine or its other vaccine components or egg, and children aged 2 to 4 years who had history of wheezing or asthma during the preceding 12 months.

The most common adverse reactions following live attenuated vaccine administration are runny nose, nasal congestion, sore throat and fever. Serious problems after receiving live attenuated influenza vaccine are rare.

5. Is it necessary to get vaccinated against influenza every year?

Yes. The circulating influenza strains may change from time to time. In accordance with the circulating strains, the vaccine composition is updated every year to enhance protection. Moreover, the immunity built up in a vaccinated person will decrease over time and may become too low to provide protection after one year.

6. What is the seasonal influenza vaccine composition for use this year?

The vaccine composition for use contains the following viruses, as recommended by World Health Organization (WHO) for 2010/11, (northern hemisphere, winter):

- an A/California/7/2009 (H1N1)-like virus
- an A/Perth/16/2009 (H3N2)-like virus
- a B/Brisbane/60/2008-like virus

7. Does the 2010/11 influenza vaccine recommended for use contain human swine influenza virus? Is the vaccine safe?

Yes. The 2010/11 influenza vaccine recommended for use contains human swine influenza (A/California/7/2009 (H1N1)-like virus) antigen. According to the WHO, human swine influenza vaccines match the excellent safety profile of seasonal influenza vaccines, which have been used for more than 60 years.

8. How many doses of influenza vaccination will my child need?

To ensure adequate immunity against influenza, children under 9 years old who have never received any influenza vaccine are recommended to be given 2 doses of influenza vaccine with a minimum interval of 4 weeks. Children below 9 years, who have received influenza vaccine in the 2009/10 season or before are recommended to receive one dose in the 2010/11 season.

9. My child has asthma. Should he / she receive influenza vaccination?

Yes. Children suffering from lung diseases such as asthma are recommended to receive influenza vaccine because they have an increased risk of complications associated with influenza. They may receive inactivated vaccine but they should not receive live attenuated vaccine.

10. Besides vaccination, what are the other protective measures against influenza?

Vaccinated persons may still develop influenza, especially when the circulating influenza viruses differ significantly from the vaccine strains. Therefore, they should continue to maintain good personal and environmental hygiene practices, keep a balanced diet, exercise regularly, take adequate rest, and not to smoke.

Undertaking and Declaration

1. I declare the information provided in this consent form is correct.
2. I agree to provide my child's/ward's personal data in this consent form and any information related to this consultation for the use by the Government for the purposes as set out in the "Statement of Purpose". I hereby give consent to the doctor to transfer and release my child's/ward's personal data and any information related to this consultation to the Government, its agents, or other persons authorised by the Government. I note that I may be contacted to verify the information and vaccination given to my child/ward.
3. For Smart Identity Card holder: I agree to authorise the doctor to read my child's/ward's personal data [limited to Hong Kong Identity Card No., Name (in English and Chinese), date of birth and date of issue of Hong Kong Identity Card] stored in the chip embodied in my child's/ward's Smart Identity Card for the use by Government for the purposes as set out in the "Statement of Purpose".
4. This consent shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of Hong Kong Special Administrative Region and I and the Government shall irrevocably submit to the exclusive jurisdiction of the Courts of Hong Kong Administrative Region.
5. I have read this consent carefully and fully understood my obligations and liability under this consent.

Signature: _____ Date: _____ (dd/mm/yyyy)
Name: _____ Relationship: Father Mother Guardian
Telephone Number: _____

Statement of Purpose

Purposes of Collection

1. The personal data provided will be used by the Government for one or more of the following purposes:
 - (a) for creation, processing and maintenance of an eHealth account, payment of subsidy, and the administration and monitoring of the Vaccination Subsidy Schemes, including but not limiting to a verification procedure by electronic means with the data kept by the Immigration Department;
 - (b) for statistical and research purposes; and
 - (c) any other legitimate purposes as may be required, authorised or permitted by law.
2. The vaccination record made for the purpose of this consultation will be accessible by health care personnel in the public and private sectors for the purpose of determining and providing necessary health care service to the recipient.
3. The provision of personal data is voluntary. If you do not provide sufficient information, you may not be able to use the subsidy.

Classes of Transferees

4. The personal data you provide are mainly for use within the Government but they may also be disclosed by the Government to other organisations, and third parties for the purposes stated in paragraphs 1 and 2 above, if required.

Access to Personal Data

5. You have a right to request access to and to request the correction of your personal data under sections 18 and 22 and principle 6, schedule 1 of the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance. A fee may be imposed for complying with a data access request.

Enquiries

6. Enquiries concerning the personal data provided, including the making of access and correction, should be addressed to:

Executive Officer,
Vaccination Office,
Centre for Health Protection,
4/F 147C Argyle Street, Kowloon
Telephone No.: 2125 2125