

Elderly of Age **65** Years or Above
Receive **Pneumococcal Vaccination**



Get vaccinated **early!**

Prevent severe or even life-threatening
invasive pneumococcal diseases



Centre for Health Protection



Department of Health

1.

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 bacteraemic 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, 13-valent pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV13) or 15-valent pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV15) before, do not need mop up vaccination.

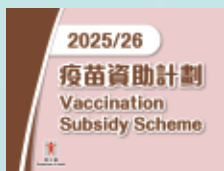
Elderly with **high-risk conditions***

- who have not received pneumococcal vaccination before, should receive one dose of PCV15, followed by one dose of 23vPPV **one year later**;
- who have already received 23vPPV should receive one dose of PCV15 **one year after** previous 23vPPV administration;
- who have already received PCV13 or PCV15, should receive one dose of 23vPPV **one year after** previous PCV13 or PCV15 administration.

3.

Where can elderly go for pneumococcal vaccination?

Vaccination Subsidy Scheme (VSS)



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

In 2025/26, subsidy for one dose of 23vPPV is HK\$400 and subsidy for one dose of PCV15 is HK\$800. 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.

Government Vaccination Programme (GVP)

Elderly can receive pneumococcal vaccination **free of charge** at designated public clinics under the GVP if they fall under eligible groups as below:

- Community-living elderly with **high-risk conditions*** who are existing patients/ clients/ members of the designated public clinics; or
- Community-living elderly who are recipients of Comprehensive Social Security Assistance or holders of valid Certificate (with/ without high-risk conditions*); or
- Elderly in-patients under Hospital Authority with **high-risk conditions*** (e.g. in infirmary, psycho-geriatric, mentally ill or mentally handicapped units/ wards).

Residential Care Home Vaccination Programme (RVP)

Residents of Residential Care Homes for Elderly and residents of Residential Care Homes for Persons with Disability aged 65 or above are eligible for **free** pneumococcal vaccination.

*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



4.

What are the possible adverse reactions following administration of pneumococcal vaccines?

Common adverse reactions include slight swelling and tenderness at the injection site shortly following injection. Some may experience fever, fatigue, headache, chills or muscle pain, etc.

Receiving vaccination is safe. In general, adverse reactions following vaccination are minor and temporary. If you experience persistent fever, severe allergic reactions (e.g. difficulty in breathing, swelling of the lip or tongue, or hives, etc.) or other adverse events after vaccination, please consult a doctor immediately.



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.



Enquiry

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CHP website

www.chp.gov.hk

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

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Vaccination Schemes

Recipients aged 18 or above must register for eHealth