

香港特別行政區政府  
衛生署  
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衛生防護中心



THE GOVERNMENT OF THE HONG KONG  
SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION  
COMMUNITY LIAISON DIVISION  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
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27 November 2013

Dear Sir / Madam,

### **Latest Information on Invasive Pneumococcal Disease**

We would like to update you with the latest information on invasive pneumococcal disease.

The Scientific Committee on Vaccine Preventable Diseases (SCVPD) and its Working Group on Pneumococcal Vaccination (WG) of the Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health convened a joint meeting in the afternoon of 25 November to follow up on the recent fatal cases of invasive pneumococcal disease (IPD).

At the joint meeting, Members were highly concerned on the recent IPD cases caused by serotype 3 *Streptococcus pneumoniae* (pneumococcus) in young children. Both the SCVPD and the WG have closely examined the global and local IPD situation, particularly that caused by serotype 3 pneumococcus.

Based on the information currently available, the meeting considered a booster dose of 13-valent Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine (PCV13) among children under 5 years old who had received PCV7 or PCV10 is not required at this point in time.

The joint meeting remarked that there was no evidence to suggest children who had received PCV7 or PCV10 were more susceptible to serotype 3 pneumococcus than those who had not. Members also considered that macrolides should not be the first line of treatment for community acquired pneumonia in children.

Taking into account the SCVPD's views together with concerns across the community and parents, and noting the SCVPD's view, the Government decided to subsidise one booster dose each for children aged 2 to under 5 years old who have never received PCV13 before through the CHP's Vaccination Subsidy Scheme. Details will be announced shortly.

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aspire to be an internationally renowned public health authority*

In addition, as preceding infection with influenza will lead to more severe illnesses caused by IPD, Members were of the view that children aged six months and above should receive seasonal influenza vaccination unless there was contraindication.

The SCVPD and the WG also recommended enhancing education to healthcare professionals on the updated situation of IPD in Hong Kong. Members also appealed to the public to maintain good personal hygiene against respiratory tract infections including IPD and influenza.

To heighten public awareness of IPD and its prevention, the CHP has produced related health education materials. Please join in our effort in promoting to the public the hygiene and preventive measures. Please visit the CHP website ([http://www.chp.gov.hk/en/view\\_content/32346.html](http://www.chp.gov.hk/en/view_content/32346.html)) for update information about IPD.

The education resources can be downloaded from the CHP web link ([http://www.chp.gov.hk/en/her\\_list/463/24/10584.html#1](http://www.chp.gov.hk/en/her_list/463/24/10584.html#1)). You can also contact the Central Health Education Unit at 2572 1476 for copies of materials.

Thank you very much for your support.

Yours sincerely,



(Dr Emily LEUNG)  
for Director of Health