

Prevent Pneumococcal Infection

Elderly to receive pneumococcal vaccination



Centre for Health Protection



Department of Health

1. Why do elderly need to receive pneumococcal vaccination?

Pneumococcal infection may cause a wide range of diseases, ranging from mild illnesses such as sinus or middle ear infections to severe or even life-threatening conditions, such as invasive pneumococcal diseases (IPD) such as bacteremic pneumonia, sepsis and meningitis. The outcomes for IPD are usually more severe among elderly persons. Hence, pneumococcal vaccination is especially important for elderly.

2. What type of pneumococcal vaccine should elderly receive?

Starting from October/ November 2017, the Government will provide pneumococcal vaccination to Hong Kong residents aged 65 years or above for free or with subsidy as follows:

- Elderly without high-risk conditions* who have not received pneumococcal vaccination before, will receive 1 dose of 23-valent pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine (23vPPV);
- Elderly with high-risk conditions* who have not received pneumococcal vaccination before, will receive 1 dose of 13-valent pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV13) and then 1 dose of 23vPPV a year later;
- Elderly with high-risk conditions* who have received 23vPPV will receive 1 mop-up dose of PCV13;
- Elderly without high-risk conditions* who have received 23vPPV or PCV13 before, do not need mop up vaccination.



3. Are pneumococcal vaccines safe?

Pneumococcal vaccines 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.



4. Where can elderly go for pneumococcal vaccination?

Hong Kong residents aged 65 years or above who are with high-risk conditions* attending public clinics, CSSA recipients or holders of a valid Certificate for Waiver of Medical Charges, can receive **free** pneumococcal vaccination(s) at public clinics under the Government Vaccination Programme.

Other elderly can receive pneumococcal vaccination(s) from private doctors enrolled to the Vaccination Subsidy Scheme **with subsidy** provided by the government. Subsidy for one dose of 23vPPV is HK\$190. Subsidy for one dose of PCV13 is HK\$730. The elderly can use their health care vouchers (HCV) to pay additional service fee if the doctor has also joined the HCV Scheme.

Elderly should bring along their Hong Kong resident identity document and their vaccination card to get the vaccination services. Doctors would check the vaccination record before giving the right vaccine.

* **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; and
 - Chronic neurological conditions that can compromise respiratory functions or the handling of respiratory secretions, or increase the risk for aspiration or those who lack the ability to take care of themselves.



For more information about the pneumococcal vaccine and the vaccination programmes, please call the
Department of Health Hotline 2125 2125
or visit the Centre for Health Protection Website :
www.chp.gov.hk



Vaccination Schemes