



2020/21

Vaccination Subsidy Scheme

**Updates on Seasonal Influenza Vaccination and
Pneumococcal Vaccination**

July 2020



衛生署
Department of Health

Outline

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2. Priority groups for seasonal influenza vaccination
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1. Overview of 2019/20 Winter Influenza Season

- The 2019/20 winter influenza season in HK started in the **second week of Jan 2020**
- Overall local seasonal influenza activity peaked in **the last week of January**. It returned to baseline level in mid-February 2020
- The winter influenza season spanned for five weeks, which was much shorter than previous two winter seasons
- The predominant virus was **influenza A(H1N1)pdm09**

1. Overview of 2019/20 Winter Influenza Season

- For the surveillance of severe influenza cases requiring ICU admission or death among adult patients, a total of **169** cases (including **103** deaths) were recorded
- About **66%** of the adult severe cases are **elderly ≥65 years**. About **22%** of the adult severe cases are **aged 50-64 years**
- **Most of the deaths (81%)** affected **elderly ≥65 years**. About **78%** had pre-existing **chronic medical diseases**
- Only **25%** of the cases have received the seasonal influenza vaccine (SIV) for the 2019/20 season

1. Overview of 2019/20 Winter Influenza Season

- A total of **153 influenza-like illness (ILI) outbreaks** were recorded in this season, which was the lowest in the past five years
- ILI outbreaks decreased dramatically since the Lunar New Year holiday in late Jan and territory-wide school closure as a control measure for COVID-19
- Most ILI outbreaks occurred in **schools** (primary schools, kindergartens, child care centres)
- **5** cases of paediatric influenza-associated severe complication were recorded with no deaths recorded. Only 1 of the 5 cases had received SIV in 2019/20 season.

2. Priority groups for SIV

- Given that SIV offer protection against clinical influenza, are safe and effective, and severe cases can occur even in healthy persons, **all persons aged 6 months or above**, except those with known contraindications, should receive seasonal influenza vaccine **annually** for personal protection
- Persons who are generally at increased risk of severe influenza or transmitting influenza to those at high risk shall have higher priority for seasonal influenza vaccination

2. Priority groups for SIV

In 2020-21, the Scientific Committee on Vaccine Preventable Diseases (SCVPD) recommends the following priority groups for seasonal influenza vaccination :

- 1) **Persons aged 50 years or above**
- 2) **Persons with chronic medical problems**
- 3) **Children aged six months to 11 years**
- 4) **Pregnant women**
- 5) **Residents of Residential Care Homes (such as Residential Care Homes for the Elderly [RCHE] or Residential Care Homes for Persons with Disabilities [RCHD])**
- 6) **Health Care Workers**
- 7) **Poultry Workers**
- 8) **Pig Farmers and Pig-slaughtering Industry Personnel**

2. Priority groups for SIV

Children below 9 years:

Those received one or more doses of SIV before: to receive one dose of SIV in the 2020-21 season

Those **vaccine-naïve children aged below 9 years, two doses** of SIV with an interval of at least four weeks are required

Persons aged 50 years or above:

- aged 50-64 years : higher risk of influenza-related ICU admission and death during seasons predominated by influenza A (H1N1)pdm09
- aged 65 years or above: high risk of complications and excess hospital admissions and death from influenza

Persons with chronic medical problems:

- Increased risk of complications and death associated with influenza infection
- LAIV should NOT be used in immunocompromised persons

3. Recommendation SIV for 2020/21

- Both **inactivated influenza vaccine (IIV)** and **live attenuated influenza vaccine (LAIV)** are recommended for use in Hong Kong by SCVPD
- For the 2020/21 season, **all** available SIV in Hong Kong are **quadrivalent** SIV

3. Recommendation SIV for 2020/21

The quadrivalent influenza vaccine recommended by the SCVPD for the 2020-21 season contains the following:

- an A/Guangdong- Maonan/SWL1536/2019 (H1N1)pdm09-like virus
- an A/Hong Kong/2671/2019 (H3N2)-like virus
- a B/Washington/02/2019-like virus (B/Victoria lineage)
- a B/Phuket/3073/2013-like virus (B/Yamagata lineage)

3. Recommendation SIV for 2020/21

IIVs

Indications

- Recommended for people aged 6 months or above, including healthy people and those with chronic medical problems

Contraindications

- Contraindicated in those with history of **severe allergic reaction** to any vaccine component or a previous dose of any influenza vaccine

Precautions

- Individuals with **mild egg allergy** who are considering influenza vaccination can be given SIVs in primary care settings
- Individuals with a history of **anaphylaxis to egg** should have SIVs administered by health care professionals in appropriate medical facilities with capacity to recognize and manage severe allergic reactions
- Special precautions should be taken for individuals with **bleeding disorders** or **on anticoagulants**
- If individuals suffer from **fever** on the day of vaccination, the vaccination should be deferred till recovery

3. Recommendation SIV for 2020/21

IIVs

Side Effects

- Occasional soreness, redness or swelling at the injection site
- Fever, muscle pain, and tiredness beginning 6 to 12 hours after vaccination and lasting up to two days
- Immediate severe allergic reactions like hives, swelling of the lips or tongue, and difficulties in breathing are rare

Severe adverse events following immunization (AEFI)

- Influenza vaccination is rarely followed by
 - Guillain-Barré syndrome (1 to 2 cases per million vaccinees)
 - Severe allergic reaction (anaphylaxis) (9 in 10 million doses distributed)
- Influenza vaccination does not necessarily have causal relation to these adverse events

3. Recommendation SIV for 2020/21

LAIV

Indications

- It can be used for people aged **2 to 49 years of age** except those who are **pregnant, immunocompromised** or with other contraindications

Contraindications

- History of **severe allergic reaction** to any vaccine component or after previous dose of any influenza vaccine
- Concomitant **aspirin or salicylate-containing therapy** in children and adolescents
- Children **2 years through 4 years who have asthma** or who have had a history of wheezing in the past 12 month**

*** The UK recommended the use of IIV instead of LAIV for children with increased wheezing and/or needed additional bronchodilator treatment in previous 72 hours. Also, specialist advice should be sought on giving LAIV for children who require regular oral steroid for maintenance of asthma control or who have previously required intensive care for asthmatic attack. Canada recommended that individuals with severe asthma (currently on oral or high-dose inhaled glucocorticosteroids or active wheezing) or those with medically attended wheezing in the 7 days prior to vaccination should not use LAIV.*

3. Recommendation SIV for 2020/21

LAIV

Contraindications (cont'd)

- Children and adults who are **immunocompromised due to any cause**
- Close contacts and caregivers of severely immunosuppressed persons who require a protected environment
- **Pregnant women**
- Persons with receipt of **influenza antiviral medication** within previous 48 hours

Precautions

- Individuals with **mild egg allergy** who are considering an influenza vaccination can be given SIVs in primary care settings
- Individuals with a history of **anaphylaxis to egg** should have SIV administered by health care professionals in appropriate medical facilities with capacity to recognize and manage severe allergic reactions

3. Recommendation SIV for 2020/21

LAIV

Possible Side Effects

- **Nasal congestion or runny nose** (in all ages)
- **Fever** (in children) and sore throat (in adults)
- **Increased risk of wheezing** among children aged below 5 years with recurrent wheezing / persons of any age with asthma

Administration with other vaccines

- With other **live** vaccines: LAIV should be administered on the **same day or at least 4 weeks apart**
- With other **inactivated** vaccines: LAIV can be administered simultaneously or at any interval

4. Recommendation on pneumococcal vaccination

SCVPD's Recommendation on use of pneumococcal vaccines for high-risk individuals in July 2016

	Age 65 years and above
Without high risk conditions	Either a single dose of PCV13 or a single dose of 23vPPV
Individuals with high risk conditions [^] who have not received any pneumococcal vaccines	One dose of PCV13 followed by one dose of 23vPPV 1 year after the previous PCV13 vaccination
Individuals with high risk conditions [^] who have received 23vPPV	Single dose of PCV13 1 year after previous 23vPPV vaccination
Individuals with high risk conditions [^] who have received PCV13	Single dose of 23vPPV 1 year after previous PCV13 vaccination

4. Recommendation on pneumococcal vaccination

^High risk conditions include the following:

- (a) History of invasive pneumococcal disease
- (b) Immunocompromised states:
 - Asplenia, HIV/AIDS, primary immunodeficiency
 - Immunodeficiencies related to malignancy and transplantation
 - Immunodeficiencies related to use of immunosuppressive drugs / systemic steroid
- (c) Chronic disease:
 - Chronic cardiac, pulmonary, liver or renal disease
 - Diabetes mellitus or Cerebrospinal fluid leakage
- (d) With cochlear implants

(Essential hypertension per se is not considered as a high risk condition)

Different factors such as age and clinical condition may affect the risk of pneumococcal disease. Patients with high-risk conditions should discuss with their attending doctors on the most appropriate vaccination regimen.

4. Recommendation on pneumococcal vaccination

Under the Government Vaccination Programme and Vaccination Subsidy Scheme, aside from the above list of high-risk conditions, elderly 65 years or above with chronic metabolic diseases, obesity (BMI 30 or above), chronic neurological conditions or those with financial difficulties are eligible for free/subsidised pneumococcal vaccination.

5. More Information

- CHP website
<https://www.chp.gov.hk/en/features/17980.html>
- Recommendations on Seasonal Influenza Vaccination for the 2020/21 Season in Hong Kong (as of May 29, 2020) of the Scientific Committee on Vaccine Preventable Diseases
https://www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/recommendations_on_siv_for_2020-21.pdf
- Updated Recommendations on the Use of Pneumococcal Vaccines for High-risk Individuals (July 2016) of the Scientific Committee on Vaccine Preventable Diseases
http://www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/updated_recommendations_on_the_use_of_pneumococcal_vaccines_amended_120116_clean_2.pdf
- Hong Kong Reference Framework for Preventive Care for Children in Primary Care Settings – Module on
https://www.fhb.gov.hk/pho/english/resource/files/Module_on_Immunisation_Children.pdf

5. More Information

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Thank You