



衛生防護中心
Centre for Health Protection

**Scientific Committee on Emerging and Zoonotic Diseases
and
Scientific Committee on Vaccine Preventable Diseases**

**Consensus Interim Recommendations on the Use of COVID-19
Vaccines in Hong Kong
(As of 22 April 2021)**

Introduction

On 22 April 2021, the Scientific Committee on Vaccine Preventable Diseases (SCVPD) and the Scientific Committee on Emerging and Zoonotic Diseases (SCEZD) under the Centre for Health Protection of the Department of Health (DH) (JSC) convened a meeting, joined by the Chief Executive's expert advisory panel (EAP), to discuss recommendations on the use of mRNA COVID-19 vaccines in pregnant and lactating women; and the use of AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine.

Use of mRNA vaccines in pregnant and lactating women

2. There is emerging data on the use of mRNA COVID-19 vaccines in pregnant and lactating women. Given there are no known risks associated with administering mRNA COVID-19 vaccines to lactating women, they are recommended to receive the mRNA vaccines as for the rest of the population. Pregnant women who consider mRNA COVID-19 vaccines should consult their obstetricians on the risks and benefits of vaccination. This recommendation supersedes the previous interim recommendation on the use of COVID-19 vaccines for pregnant and lactating women issued on 7 January 2021.



AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine

3. There are reports of extremely rare adverse events of thrombosis with thrombocytopenia syndrome (TTS) following vaccination with AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine. Causal relationship between the vaccine and TTS is possible but still under investigation. Currently, evidence and data on the occurrence of TTS following vaccination of AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine is still emerging. In view of the local epidemiological situation and the availability of alternative COVID-19 vaccines in Hong Kong, it is considered that there is no need for the introduction of AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine in Hong Kong.

Quarantine measures for close contacts

4. On the issue of whether close contacts of confirmed COVID-19 cases could be exempted from the existing quarantine measures if they are fully vaccinated with COVID-19 vaccines, in view of the limited data and concerns about emerging COVID-19 variants, it is considered that the current quarantine practice on close contacts should continue until more supporting evidence becomes available.

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