



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 19 May 2022)**

Introduction

On 19 May 2022, 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 (JSC) convened a meeting, joined by the Chief Executive's expert advisory panel (EAP), to discuss and review the interim recommendations related to the use of a fourth dose of COVID-19 vaccine in adults aged 18 to 59 years in Hong Kong.

2. Having reviewed the latest scientific evidence and local situation, the JSC-EAP considered that the prevailing aim of COVID-19 vaccine strategy is to prevent severe disease and death due to COVID-19. Local data showed that three doses of Comirnaty or CoronaVac vaccines are highly effective against severe disease and death, and the protection is generally maintained at a high level over months.



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3. The JSC-EAP reiterated the importance of building up immunity against severe disease and death due to COVID-19 in the general population by completing the recommended doses of COVID-19 vaccines to prevent forthcoming epidemic.

4. The JSC-EAP recommended a fourth dose of COVID-19 vaccine for individuals aged 60 years or above as this group forms the majority of local fatal cases in the fifth wave of COVID-19 epidemic.

5. A fourth dose of COVID-19 vaccine in younger populations may provide transient additional protection against infection and symptomatic diseases. Uninfected individuals aged 18 to 59 years who are at higher risk of COVID-19 exposure¹ or with personal needs may choose to receive a fourth dose of COVID-19 vaccine at least 6 months from the third dose after considering individual risk and benefit. Related recommendations on recovered patients aged 18 to 59 years are updated accordingly (Annex).

6. The JSC-EAP will closely monitor for any new scientific evidence to inform the use of further doses.

May 2022

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¹ Examples include:

- Workers in healthcare settings and residential care homes for the elderly/ residential care homes for persons with disabilities;
- Workers at increased risk for COVID-19 exposure and transmission because of occupational setting (personnel participating in anti-epidemic related work; personnel providing cross-boundary transportation or working at control points and ports)

COVID-19 vaccination for individuals with previous COVID-19 infection

1) Individuals who are unvaccinated before infection

Vaccination status before infection*		Interval upon recovery [#] from COVID-19	Dose 1 after recovery	Interval between dose 1 & 2	Dose 2 after recovery	Interval between dose 2 & 3	Dose 3 after recovery
0 dose (unvaccinated) (who wish to receive CoronaVac [^])	≥60 years or RCH residents [@]	1 month	✓	1 - 3 months	✓	3 months	✓
	18 - 59 years who are at higher risk of COVID-19 exposure or with personal needs [~]	1 month	✓	3 months	✓	6 months	Optional
	3 - 59 years	1 month	✓	3 months	✓	-----	-----
	Immunocompromised + ≥ 12 years	1 month	✓	1 month	✓	3 months	✓
	Immunocompromised + 3-11 years	1 month	✓	1 month	✓	-----	-----
0 dose (unvaccinated) (who wish to receive Cormirnaty [§])	≥60 years or RCH residents [@]	1 month	✓	3 months	✓	3 months	✓
	18 - 59 years who are at higher risk of COVID-19 exposure or with personal needs [~]	1 month	✓	3 months	✓	6 months	Optional
	18 - 59 years	1 month	✓	3 months	✓	-----	-----
	5 - 17 years	1 month	✓	----- ^①	----- ^①	-----	-----
	Immunocompromised + ≥ 12 years	1 month	✓	1 month	✓	3 months	✓
	Immunocompromised + 5-11 years	1 month	✓	1 month	✓	-----	-----

* "Previous COVID-19 infection" is defined as a history of positive test for SARS-CoV-2 by nucleic acid tests or rapid antigen tests. Number of doses received before infection for both CoronaVac/Comirnaty vaccines are only counted if the time interval between the previous dose and the first test positive date is at least 14 days apart.

"Recovery" is defined as 14 days after the date of the first positive test.

[^] CoronaVac vaccine is approved for use in persons aged 3 or above.

[§] Comirnaty vaccine is approved for use in persons aged 5 or above.

[@] RCH refers to residential care home for the elderly/ residential care home for persons with disabilities.

[~] Examples include (a) Workers in healthcare settings and residential care homes for the elderly/ residential care homes for persons with disabilities; and (b) workers at increased risk for COVID-19 exposure and transmission because of occupational setting (personnel participating in anti-epidemic related work; personnel providing cross-boundary transportation or working at control points and ports)

[†] Recovered persons may receive their next dose of COVID-19 vaccine for personal reasons at a shorter interval of no less than 28 days after recovery.

① Children and adolescents aged 5 to 17 years who wish to receive an additional dose of Comirnaty vaccine would be allowed if informed consent is obtained before vaccination.

2) Individuals who have received 1 dose of COVID-19 vaccine before infection

Vaccination status before infection*		Interval upon recovery# from COVID-19	Dose 1 after recovery	Interval between dose 1 & 2	Dose 2 after recovery	Interval between dose 2 & 3	Dose 3 after recovery
1 dose CoronaVac [^]	≥60 years or RCH residents [@]	3 months [†]	✓	3 months	✓	-----	-----
	18 - 59 years who are at higher risk of COVID-19 exposure or with personal needs [~]	3 months [†]	✓	6 months	Optional	-----	-----
	3 - 59 years	3 months [†]	✓	-----	-----	-----	-----
	Immunocompromised + ≥ 12 years	1 month	✓	3 months	✓	-----	-----
	Immunocompromised + 3 - 11 years	1 month	✓	-----	-----	-----	-----
1 dose Comirnaty [§]	≥60 years or RCH residents [@]	3 months [†]	✓	3 months	✓	-----	-----
	18 - 59 years who are at higher risk of COVID-19 exposure or with personal needs [~]	3 months [†]	✓	6 months	Optional	-----	-----
	18 - 59 years	3 months [†]	✓	-----	-----	-----	-----
	5 - 17 years	Not required ^①	----- ^①	-----	-----	-----	-----
	Immunocompromised + ≥ 12 years	1 month	✓	3 months	✓	-----	-----
	Immunocompromised + 5 - 11 years	1 month	✓	-----	-----	-----	-----

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[@] RCH refers to residential care home for the elderly/ residential care home for persons with disabilities.

[~] Examples include (a) Workers in healthcare settings and residential care homes for the elderly/ residential care homes for persons with disabilities; and (b) workers at increased risk for COVID-19 exposure and transmission because of occupational setting (personnel participating in anti-epidemic related work; personnel providing cross-boundary transportation or working at control points and ports)

[†] Recovered persons may receive their next dose of COVID-19 vaccine for personal reasons at a shorter interval of no less than 28 days after recovery.

① Children and adolescents aged 5 to 17 years who wish to receive an additional dose of Comirnaty vaccine would be allowed if informed consent is obtained before vaccination.

3) Individuals who have received 2 doses of COVID-19 vaccine before infection

Vaccination status before infection*		Interval upon recovery# from COVID-19	Dose 1 after recovery	Interval between dose 1 & 2	Dose 2 after recovery	Interval between dose 2 & 3	Dose 3 after recovery
2 doses CoronaVac [^]	≥60 years or RCH residents [@]	3 months [†]	✓	-----	-----	-----	-----
	18 - 59 years who are at higher risk of COVID-19 exposure or with personal needs [~]	6 months	Optional	-----	-----	-----	-----
	3 - 59 years	Not required	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	Immunocompromised + ≥ 12 years	3 months [†]	✓	-----	-----	-----	-----
	Immunocompromised + 3 - 11 years	Not required	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
2 doses Comirnaty [§]	≥60 years or RCH residents [@]	3 months [†]	✓	-----	-----	-----	-----
	18 - 59 years who are at higher risk of COVID-19 exposure or with personal needs [~]	6 months	Optional	-----	-----	-----	-----
	5 - 59 years	Not required	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	Immunocompromised + ≥ 12 years	3 months [†]	✓	-----	-----	-----	-----
	Immunocompromised + 5 - 11 years	Not required	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

* "Previous COVID-19 infection" is defined as a history of positive test for SARS-CoV-2 by nucleic acid tests or rapid antigen tests. Number of doses received before infection for both CoronaVac/Comirnaty vaccines are only counted if the time interval between the previous dose and the first test positive date is at least 14 days apart.

"Recovery" is defined as 14 days after the date of the first positive test.

[^] CoronaVac vaccine is approved for use in persons aged 3 or above.

[§] Comirnaty vaccine is approved for use in persons aged 5 or above.

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[~] Examples include (a) Workers in healthcare settings and residential care homes for the elderly/ residential care homes for persons with disabilities; and (b) workers at increased risk for COVID-19 exposure and transmission because of occupational setting (personnel participating in anti-epidemic related work; personnel providing cross-boundary transportation or working at control points and ports)

[†] Recovered persons may receive their next dose of COVID-19 vaccine for personal reasons at a shorter interval of no less than 28 days after recovery.

4) Individuals who have received 3 or more doses of COVID-19 vaccines before infection do not require further doses.