



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 1 August 2022)**

Introduction

On 1 August 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 revisit the interim recommendations related to the use of COVID-19 vaccines in Hong Kong.

2. The JSC-EAP made the following interim recommendations based on the review of data and information available including materials submitted to the Advisory Panel on COVID-19 Vaccines by Sinovac Biotech (Hong Kong) and Fosun Pharma/BioNTech, latest scientific evidence as well as local epidemiology, recommendations by health authorities and overseas practices.



Use of COVID-19 vaccines for children down to six months of age

3. The JSC-EAP noted the early clinical trial data from three doses of Comirnaty vaccine and two doses of CoronaVac vaccine in children down to six months of age which showed that both vaccines were immunogenic and had no new safety concerns.

4. Given the local context and in anticipation of a winter surge of COVID-19, vaccinating this group of children will likely prevent severe disease and deaths, while achieving hybrid immunity for those who have been infected in the fifth wave of the COVID-19 pandemic.

5. For Comirnaty vaccine, the specific paediatric formulation for six months to under five years of age is recommended. In case procurement of the paediatric formulation cannot be achieved within a short period of time, JSC-EAP recommended the Government to explore the option of diluting the adult formulation to appropriate paediatric dosage.

6. A 3-dose series of Comirnaty vaccine (each dose is one-tenth of the adult dose, i.e. 3µg) may be administered to children aged six months to under five years of age. The first two vaccine doses are given 8 weeks apart, and the second and third doses are separated by at least 3 months, a longer interval to reduce the small risk of myocarditis and/or pericarditis associated with mRNA COVID-19 vaccines. The JSC-EAP also recommended intramuscular injection of the Comirnaty vaccine at mid-anterolateral thigh in this age group.

7. For CoronaVac vaccine, taking reference from the clinical trials of CoronaVac vaccine and local studies in children and adolescents, three vaccine doses (same dosage as in older children and adults) may be used for children aged six months to under three years of age, with the first two doses given 28 days apart followed by a third dose at least 3 months after the second dose.

8. For immunocompromised children down to six months of age (up to less than 5 years of age for Comirnaty vaccine and up to less than 3 years of age for CoronaVac vaccine) are recommended to receive three doses of COVID-19 vaccines. Children receiving Comirnaty vaccine will receive the

first two doses 3 weeks apart and a third dose given 4 weeks after the second dose. Those who wish to receive CoronaVac will receive three vaccine doses, each given 4 weeks apart.

9. Related recommendations on recovered patients down to six months of age are supplemented accordingly (Annex).

Further booster doses for immunocompetent adults

10. Accruing local and overseas evidence showed that three doses of the CoronaVac and Comirnaty vaccine are highly effective in reducing hospitalisation, severe disease and death across all age groups in adult population in the context of emerging SARS-CoV-2 variants.

11. Considering the latest scientific evidence on currently available vaccines, local epidemiology, WHO and health authorities' recommendations and overseas practice, JSC-EAP strongly urged all individuals to complete the recommended doses of COVID-19 vaccines as soon as possible.

12. Noting that severe complications may also occur in those aged 50 to 59 years, JSC-EAP recommended a fourth dose of COVID-19 vaccine for those aged 50 years and above at least 3 months from the third dose. Related recommendations on recovered patients aged 50 to 59 years are updated accordingly (Annex).

13. The aforesaid interim recommendations provide updates on previous recommendations regarding the use of COVID-19 vaccines issued on 19 May 2022.

August 2022

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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^)	≥ 50 years or RCH residents@	1 month	✓	1 - 3 months	✓	3 months	✓
	18 - 49 years who are at higher risk of COVID-19 exposure or with personal needs~	1 month	✓	3 months	✓	6 months	Optional
	6 months - 49 years	1 month	✓	3 months	✓	-----	-----
	Immunocompromised + ≥ 12 years	1 month	✓	1 month	✓	3 months	✓
	Immunocompromised + 6 months -11 years	1 month	✓	1 month	✓	-----	-----
0 dose (unvaccinated) (who wish to receive Cormirnaty §)	≥ 50 years or RCH residents@	1 month	✓	3 months	✓	3 months	✓
	18 - 49 years who are at higher risk of COVID-19 exposure or with personal needs~	1 month	✓	3 months	✓	6 months	Optional
	18 - 49 years	1 month	✓	3 months	✓	-----	-----
	5 - 17 years	1 month	✓	-----①	-----①	-----	-----
	6 months - 4 years	1 month	✓	3 months	✓	-----	-----
	Immunocompromised + ≥ 12 years	1 month	✓	1 month	✓	3 months	✓
	Immunocompromised + 6 months -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 recommended for use in persons aged 6 months or above.

§ Comirnaty vaccine is recommended for use in persons aged 6 months or above (use in persons aged 6 months to below 5 years subject to availability of appropriate formulation).

@ 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 [^]	≥ 50 years or RCH residents [@]	3 months [†]	✓	3 months	✓	-----	-----
	18 - 49 years who are at higher risk of COVID-19 exposure or with personal needs [~]	3 months [†]	✓	6 months	Optional	-----	-----
	6 months - 49 years	3 months [†]	✓	-----	-----	-----	-----
	Immunocompromised + ≥ 12 years	1 month	✓	3 months	✓	-----	-----
	Immunocompromised + 6 months - 11 years	1 month	✓	-----	-----	-----	-----
1 dose Comirnaty [§]	≥ 50 years or RCH residents [@]	3 months [†]	✓	3 months	✓	-----	-----
	18 - 49 years who are at higher risk of COVID-19 exposure or with personal needs [~]	3 months [†]	✓	6 months	Optional	-----	-----
	18 - 49 years	3 months [†]	✓	-----	-----	-----	-----
	5 - 17 years	----- ^①	----- ^①	-----	-----	-----	-----
	6 months - 4 years	3 months [†]	✓	-----	-----	-----	-----
	Immunocompromised + ≥ 12 years	1 month	✓	3 months	✓	-----	-----
	Immunocompromised + 6 months - 11 years	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 recommended for use in persons aged 6 months or above.

[§] Comirnaty vaccine is recommended for use in persons aged 6 months or above (use in persons aged 6 months to below 5 years subject to availability of appropriate formulation).

[@] 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 [^]	≥ 50 years or RCH residents [@]	3 months [†]	✓	-----	-----	-----	-----
	18 - 49 years who are at higher risk of COVID-19 exposure or with personal needs [~]	6 months	Optional	-----	-----	-----	-----
	6 months - 49 years	Not required	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	Immunocompromised + ≥ 12 years	3 months [†]	✓	-----	-----	-----	-----
	Immunocompromised + 6 months - 11 years	Not required	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
2 doses Comirnaty [§]	≥ 50 years or RCH residents [@]	3 months [†]	✓	-----	-----	-----	-----
	18 - 49 years who are at higher risk of COVID-19 exposure or with personal needs [~]	6 months	Optional	-----	-----	-----	-----
	6 months - 49 years	Not required	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	Immunocompromised + ≥ 12 years	3 months [†]	✓	-----	-----	-----	-----
	Immunocompromised + 6 months - 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 recommended for use in persons aged 6 months or above.

[§] Comirnaty vaccine is recommended for use in persons aged 6 months or above (use in persons aged 6 months to below 5 years subject to availability of appropriate formulation).

[@] 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.

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