



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 6 April 2022)**

Introduction

On 6 April 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 administration of COVID-19 vaccines in Hong Kong.

Revisit the use of COVID-19 vaccines in general

2. Local studies have shown that three doses of COVID-19 vaccines (i.e. Comirnaty vaccine or CoronaVac vaccine) are highly effective in reducing hospitalization and death across all age groups in the adult population.



衛生防護中心乃衛生署
轄下執行疾病預防
及控制的專業架構

*The Centre for Health
Protection is a
professional arm the
Department of Health for
disease prevention
and control*

General population

3. The following recommendations remained status quo:
 - (a) Individuals aged 18 years or above, including pregnant and breastfeeding women, are recommended to receive three doses of COVID-19 vaccine (i.e. Comirnaty vaccine or CoronaVac vaccine). The first two doses should be given either 21 days (for Comirnaty vaccine) or 28 days (for CoronaVac vaccine) apart, followed by a third dose at least 3 months later.
 - (b) Adolescents aged 12 to 17 years are recommended to receive three doses of COVID-19 vaccine for personal protection against severe disease. Those receiving CoronaVac vaccine will be offered the first two doses 28 days apart, followed by a third dose at least 3 months later. For Comirnaty, the first two doses will be given 8 weeks apart, followed by a third dose at least 5 months later.
 - (c) Children aged 3 to 11 years are recommended to receive either two doses of Comirnaty vaccine (for 5 to 11 years) at least 8 weeks apart; or three doses of CoronaVac vaccine (for 3 to 11 years) with the first two doses given 28 days apart, followed by a third dose at least 3 months later.

Immunocompromised individuals¹

4. Immunocompromised persons aged 12 or above are recommended to receive four doses of COVID-19 vaccine. Persons receiving CoronaVac vaccine will have the first three doses 4 weeks apart, followed by a fourth dose 3 months later. For those who wish to receive Comirnaty vaccine, the first two doses will be offered 21 days apart, with a third dose 4 weeks following the second dose and a fourth dose 3 months later.

5. For immunocompromised children aged 3 to 11 years, they are

¹ Consensus Interim Recommendations on the Use of COVID-19 Vaccines in Hong Kong (As of 27 October 2021) (Updated on 19 November 2021). Available at https://www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/consensus_interim_recommendations_on_the_use_of_covid19_vaccines_in_hong_kong.pdf

recommended to receive either three doses of CoronaVac vaccine (for 3 to 11 years) 4 weeks apart, or three doses of Comirnaty vaccine (for 5 to 11 years) with the first two doses given 21 days apart and a third dose 4 weeks later.

6. The aforesaid interim recommendations provide elaborations on the previous recommendations regarding the administration of a third dose of COVID-19 vaccine for immunocompromised individuals issued on 27 October 2021 (updated on 19 November 2021) and 25 February 2022 (updated on 12 March 2022).

Use of COVID-19 vaccines in persons with previous COVID-19 infection

7. For patients recovered from COVID-19, the JSC-EAP recommended an interval between 1 and 3 months from recovery to vaccination for better effectiveness (Please refer to Annex for the recommended intervals after adjustment).

8. The JSC-EAP had no objection for recovered persons to receive the next dose of COVID-19 vaccine for personal reasons (e.g. study abroad or fulfill requirement for overseas travel) at a shorter interval of no less than 28 days after recovery.

9. The aforesaid interim recommendations provide an update on top of the previous recommendations on use of COVID-19 vaccines in persons with previous COVID-19 infection in Hong Kong issued on 12 March 2022.

Vaccinating individuals with unknown COVID-19 status

10. COVID-19 vaccination should be offered to persons who are unsure if they had previous COVID-19 infection as if they have not been infected. COVID-19 vaccine is safe in people with evidence of previous SARS-CoV-2 infection. Prior COVID-19 screening before administration of COVID-19 vaccine is neither needed nor recommended.

A fourth dose for individuals aged 60 years or above

11. The JSC-EAP noted that among local fatal cases in the fifth wave of COVID-19 epidemic, majority were individuals aged 60 years or above. This group is thus recommended to receive an additional dose (i.e. fourth dose) of either CoronaVac or Comirnaty vaccine at least 3 months after their last dose for better protection. Related recommendations on recovered patients aged 60 years or above are also adjusted accordingly (Annex).

Vaccinating persons who received other COVID-19 vaccines outside Hong Kong

12. For those who had been fully vaccinated according to manufacturers' recommendation with locally unavailable COVID-19 vaccine on '*List of COVID-19 Vaccines Recognised for Specified Purposes*'² and/or under World Health Organization (WHO)'s Emergency Use Listing, they should follow local vaccination recommendation on further doses according to their age and risk group.

13. For persons who are partially vaccinated with locally unavailable COVID-19 vaccines on the aforesaid lists, the JSC-EAP recommended them to complete their vaccination course with vaccines using the same platform or any suitable locally available alternative at least 4 weeks after the previous dose.

14. For those who had been fully or partially vaccinated with vaccines not on the aforesaid lists, they are recommended to start over with vaccines available in Hong Kong following the local recommended schedule.

Co-administration of COVID-19 vaccine with other vaccines

15. Noting the recent updates on overseas practices and WHO recommendations on co-administration with COVID-19 vaccine, the JSC-EAP had no objection to exercise flexibility by allowing provision of COVID-19

² https://www.coronavirus.gov.hk/pdf/list_of_recognised_covid19_vaccines.pdf

vaccines with seasonal influenza vaccine or other childhood immunization vaccines on the same visit under informed consent for administrative convenience and achieving better coverage. The same principle would also be applied to similar settings including residential care homes.

16. The aforesaid recommendations superseded the previous recommendation on co-administration of COVID-19 vaccine with other vaccines issued on 27 October 2021 (updated on 19 November 2021).

COVID-19 vaccine development

17. The JSC-EAP noted the development of new vaccines, including Omicron-specific vaccines and protein subunit vaccines, are in different stages of development or being put in use in late 2021. There is limited scientific evidence on their use as booster vaccine. The JSC-EAP would keep in view the development of these vaccines at this stage.

April 2022

The copyright of this paper belongs to the Centre for Health Protection, Department of Health, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. Contents of the paper may be freely quoted for educational, training and non-commercial uses provided that acknowledgement be made to the Centre for Health Protection, Department of Health, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. No part of this paper may be used, modified or reproduced for purposes other than those stated above without prior permission obtained from the Centre.

COVID-19 vaccination for individuals with previous COVID-19 infection
(Updated recommendations highlighted in red)

1) Individuals who are unvaccinated before infection

Vaccination status before infection*		Interval upon recovery# from COVID-19	Dose 1	Interval between dose 1 & 2	Dose 2	Interval between dose 2 & 3	Dose 3
0 dose (unvaccinated) (who wish to receive CoronaVac [^])	≥60 years or RCH residents [@]	1 month	✓	1 - 3 months	✓	3 months	✓
	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 Comirnaty [§])	≥60 years or RCH residents [@]	1 month	✓	3 months	✓	3 months	✓
	18 - 59 years	1 month	✓	3 months	✓	-----	-----
	5 - 17 years ^{&}	1 month	✓	-----	-----	-----	-----
	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.

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

[^] 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

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	Interval between dose 1 & 2	Dose 2	Interval between dose 2 & 3	Dose 3
1 dose CoronaVac [^]	≥60 years or RCH residents [@]	3 months	✓	3 months	✓	-----	-----
	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	3 months	✓	-----	-----	-----	-----
	5-17 years ^{&}	Not required	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	Immunocompromised + ≥ 12 years	1 month	✓	3 months	✓	-----	-----
	Immunocompromised + 5-11 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.

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

[^] 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

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	Interval between dose 1 & 2	Dose 2	Interval between dose 2 & 3	Dose 3
2 doses CoronaVac [^]	≥60 years or RCH residents [@]	3 months	✓	-----	-----	-----	-----
	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	✓	-----	-----	-----	-----
	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

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

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