



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 Persons with
Previous COVID-19 Infection and Children in Hong Kong
(As of 12 March 2022)**

Introduction

On 12 March 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), revisited the interim recommendations related to the use of COVID-19 vaccines in Hong Kong with emphasis putting on persons with previous COVID-19 infection.

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

2. Taking into account local context, overseas practice and recommendations by the World Health Organization with reference taken from previous time interval recommendation for subsequent dose(s), the JSC-EAP discussed and made recommendations on the use of CoronaVac vaccine and Comirnaty vaccine for people with previous infection. The scope of recommendations covered the number of doses of COVID-19 vaccine required after infection and dosing interval in accordance with age, previous use of COVID-19 vaccine, intended type of vaccine to be used after recovery, as well as immune status. Salient points of related recommendations are presented in the ensuing paragraphs. Details on



the number of vaccine doses required for individuals with previous COVID-19 infection and the recommended dosing intervals under different scenarios are further elaborated at [Annex](#).

3. The JSC-EAP defined previous COVID-19 infection as a documented history of positive test for SARS-CoV-2 by nucleic acid test or rapid antigen test. The number of previous vaccine dose would only be counted if the time interval between the previous dose and the first test positive date was at least 14 days apart. The time point of recovery from COVID-19 would be 14 days after the date of the first documented positive test.

4. JSC-EAP recommended immunocompetent persons with past history of receiving 2 or more doses of CoronaVac / Comirnaty vaccine before infection would not need to be vaccinated after recovery. For other immunocompetent persons with previous infection, a maximum of two additional doses after recovery may be required depending on age and number of doses received before the infection.

5. If indicated for a first dose after recovery, the JSC-EAP considered that natural infection would provide a stronger immune response than a vaccination dose and therefore recommended immunocompetent adults to receive this first dose with a longer interval following the infection (i.e. 3 months after recovery). A second dose after recovery (to be given 1-3 months after the first dose for CoronaVac vaccine and 3 months after Comirnaty vaccine) would resemble the third dose of the same vaccine in a non-infected person.

6. With suboptimal immune response, immunocompromised persons recovered from COVID-19 were recommended to receive a maximum of 3 doses after recovery, generally in shorter dosing intervals. The exact number of doses required would depend on age and number of doses received before the infection.

7. The JSC-EAP considered the potential risk of myocarditis for children and adolescents aged 5 to 17 years receiving Cormirnaty vaccine and recommended them to receive a maximum of one additional dose of Cormirnaty vaccine following infection. A second dose of Comirnaty vaccine after recovery would still be allowed to cater personal need (e.g. studying overseas) if informed consent is obtained.

8. For the use of CoronaVac vaccine in children and adolescents aged 3 to 17 years with previous infection, the same number of doses and time interval as in recovered adults using CoronaVac vaccine would be applied according to their past vaccination history.

9. The JSC-EAP had no objection on an expedited vaccination programme with a shorter interval between doses given during extensive outbreak for residents of residential care homes for the elderly (RCHE) in Hong Kong.

10. The aforesaid consensus interim recommendations provided an update on top of the previous JSC-EAP interim recommendation dated 23 December 2021.

Use of CoronaVac vaccine in children aged 3 to 11 years

11. During the meeting, the JSC-EAP also revisited the third dose of COVID-19 vaccination for children younger than 12 years. The JSC-EAP considered a primary course of vaccination would comprise of two doses of Comirnaty vaccine or three doses of CoronaVac vaccine in adults and eligible children. Based on this principle, the JSC-EAP recommended a third dose of CoronaVac vaccine for children aged 3 to 11 years to be given at least three months after receiving the second dose of CoronaVac vaccine.

12. Moreover, studies showed those who had received CoronaVac vaccine would have a better immune response after receiving Cormirnaty vaccine as booster.

13. The aforesaid consensus interim recommendation provided an update on top of the previous JSC-EAP interim recommendation dated 25 February 2022.

March 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	Interval between dose 1 & 2	Dose 2	Interval between dose 2 & 3	Dose 3
0 dose (unvaccinated) (who wish to receive CoronaVac)	RCHE residents [@]	1 month	✓	1 - 3 months	✓	-----	-----
	≥18 years	3 months	✓	1 - 3 months	✓	-----	-----
	12-17 years	3 months	✓	1 - 3 months	✓	-----	-----
	5-11 years	3 months	✓	1 - 3 months	✓	-----	-----
	3-4 years [^]	3 months	✓	1 - 3 months	✓	-----	-----
	Immunocompromised + ≥ 18 years	1 month	✓	1 month	✓	3 months	✓
	Immunocompromised + 12-17 years	1 month	✓	1 month	✓	3 months	✓
	Immunocompromised + 5-11 years	1 month	✓	1 month	✓	-----	-----
	Immunocompromised + 3-4 years [^]	1 month	✓	1 month	✓	-----	-----
0 dose (unvaccinated) (who wish to receive Comirnaty)	RCHE residents [@]	1 month	✓	3 months	✓	-----	-----
	≥18 years	3 months	✓	3 months	✓	-----	-----
	12-17 years ^{&}	3 months	✓	-----	-----	-----	-----
	5-11 years ^{&}	3 months	✓	-----	-----	-----	-----
	3-4 years	Not applicable	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	Immunocompromised + ≥ 18 years	1 month	✓	1 month	✓	3 months	✓
	Immunocompromised + 12-17 years	1 month	✓	1 month	✓	3 months	✓
	Immunocompromised + 5-11 years	1 month	✓	1 month	✓	-----	-----
	Immunocompromised + 3-4 years	Not applicable	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

* "Previous COVID-19 infection" is defined as a documented 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 documented positive test.

[@] Special vaccination arrangement applied for RCHE residents during extensive outbreak situation

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

[^] CoronaVac vaccine only

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	RCHE residents [@]	3 months	✓	-----	-----	-----	-----
	≥18 years	3 months	✓	-----	-----	-----	-----
	12-17 years	3 months	✓	-----	-----	-----	-----
	5-11 years	3 months	✓	-----	-----	-----	-----
	3-4 years [^]	3 months	✓	-----	-----	-----	-----
	Immunocompromised + ≥ 18 years	1 month	✓	3 months	✓	-----	-----
	Immunocompromised + 12-17 years	1 month	✓	3 months	✓	-----	-----
	Immunocompromised + 5-11 years	1 month	✓	-----	-----	-----	-----
	Immunocompromised + 3-4 years [^]	1 month	✓	-----	-----	-----	-----
1 dose Comirnaty	RCHE residents [@]	3 months	✓	-----	-----	-----	-----
	≥18 years	3 months	✓	-----	-----	-----	-----
	12-17 years ^{&}	Not required	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	5-11 years ^{&}	Not required	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	3-4 years	Not applicable	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	Immunocompromised + ≥ 18 years	1 month	✓	3 months	✓	-----	-----
	Immunocompromised + 12-17 years	1 month	✓	3 months	✓	-----	-----
	Immunocompromised + 5-11 years	1 month	✓	-----	-----	-----	-----
	Immunocompromised + 3-4 years	Not applicable	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

* "Previous COVID-19 infection" is defined as a documented 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 documented positive test.

[@] Special vaccination arrangement applied for RCHE residents during extensive outbreak situation

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

[^] CoronaVac vaccine only

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	RCHE residents	Not required	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	≥18 years	Not required	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	12-17 years	Not required	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	5-11 years	Not required	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	3-4 years	Not required	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	Immunocompromised + ≥ 18 years	3 months	✓	-----	-----	-----	-----
	Immunocompromised + 12-17 years	3 months	✓	-----	-----	-----	-----
	Immunocompromised + 5-11 years	Not required	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
2 doses Comirnaty	RCHE residents	Not required	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	≥18 years	Not required	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	12-17 years	Not required	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	5-11 years	Not required	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	3-4 years	Not applicable	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	Immunocompromised + ≥ 18 years	3 months	✓	-----	-----	-----	-----
	Immunocompromised + 12-17 years	3 months	✓	-----	-----	-----	-----
	Immunocompromised + 5-11 years	Not required	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Immunocompromised + 3-4 years	Not applicable	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	

* “Previous COVID-19 infection” is defined as a documented 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 documented positive test.

4) Individuals who have received 3 or more doses of COVID-19 vaccines 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
≥3 doses of COVID-19 vaccines in any combination	RCHE residents	Not required	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	≥18 years	Not required	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	12-17 years	Not required	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	5-11 years	Not applicable	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	3-4 years	Not applicable	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	Immunocompromised + ≥ 18 years	Not required	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	Immunocompromised + 12-17 years	Not required	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	Immunocompromised + 5-11 years	Not required	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Immunocompromised + 3-4 years	Not required	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	

* “Previous COVID-19 infection” is defined as a documented 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 documented positive test.