



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 Children in Hong Kong
(As of 17 January 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), joined by the Chief Executive's expert advisory panel (EAP), revisited the interim recommendations related to the use of COVID-19 vaccines in children.

2. On 19 November 2021, given the local context and real world experience accrued outside Hong Kong, the JSC-EAP recommended the use of CoronaVac vaccine in children and adolescents 12 to 17 years of age for priority deployment, with a view of extending to children of a younger age group at a later stage.

3. In view of the emergence of the Omicron variant with evidence of transmission in the Hong Kong community, JSC-EAP has no objection on allowing the use of CoronaVac vaccine and the use of a fractional dose (i.e. one-third of a dose) of the Comirnaty vaccine for adults in children 5 to 11 years of age. While both vaccines are expected to lower the risk of severe disease / death, Comirnaty may provide additional protection against Omicron infection.



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4. For children aged 5 to 11 years, the JSC-EAP recommended two doses of CoronaVac vaccine to be given 28 days apart. For Comirnaty vaccine, two doses of a fractional dose (i.e. one-third of a dose) of the Comirnaty vaccine for adults given at least 12 weeks between the two doses is recommended. It is further recommended that children be encouraged to take the Comirnaty vaccine intramuscularly at the anterolateral aspect of mid-thigh, although their preference for a deltoid injection would be respected.

5. The JSC-EAP urges the Hong Kong SAR Government to expedite the process in relation to authorization of the use of paediatric formulation of Comirnaty vaccine in children 5 to 11 years of age.

6. Both vaccines should be rolled out at the same time so as to provide real choice.

7. Importantly, the much more urgent inoculation of aged 60 and above older adults, particularly those who dwell in residential care homes for the elderly (RCHes), should take priority over paediatric vaccination in the 5 to 11 age group.

8. This consensus interim recommendations document provides an update on top of the previous JSC-EAP interim recommendations dated 19 November and 23 December 2021.

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