

Supplementary notes on use of CoronaVac vaccine for children aged 6 months to less than 3 years old*

From 4 August 2022 onwards, children aged 6 months to less than 3 years old can receive CoronaVac (Sinovac) vaccine.

With the global pandemic of COVID-19 infection, vaccination is crucial to protect children against COVID-19 disease to effectively decrease the rates of serious illness and death.

The Scientific Committee on Vaccine Preventable Diseases and the Scientific Committee on Emerging and Zoonotic Diseases (JSC) under the Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health, joined by the Chief Executive's expert advisory panel (EAP), noted the early clinical trial data from two doses of CoronaVac (Sinovac) vaccine in children down to six months of age showed that the vaccine was immunogenic and had no new safety concerns. The experts considered the vaccination arrangement for children aged six months to less than 3 years as follows:

Number of doses: three doses can be used[#]

Dosage: dosage of each vaccination is the same as in older children and adults

Interval : The interval between the first two doses should be at least 28 days apart and the third dose to be given at least 90 days after the second dose.

For immunocompromised children, the interval between the first two doses is at least 28 days, and the third dose to be given 28 days after the second dose.

Healthcare professionals will arrange the vaccination at arm or thigh for the children as appropriate.

* The use of CoronaVac (Sinovac) Vaccine on children aged between 6 months and less than 3 years old is not listed in the approved package insert of the CoronaVac authorized under the Prevention and Control of Disease (Use of Vaccines) Regulation (Cap. 599K). This is an off-label use allowed in the Government programme under the Prevention and Control of Disease (Use of Vaccines) Regulation (Cap.599K) , having regard to the advice from panel(s) / committee(s) of experts appointed by the Government upon review of the current and anticipated epidemic situation, as well as the relevant efficacy and safety data available. The person who prescribes, dispenses or is responsible for the administering of the vaccine to the children vaccine recipients acts in accordance with the Government's direction in the Government programme.

For children with prior COVID-19 infection, please refer to the "Factsheet on COVID-19 Vaccination For Persons with Prior COVID-19 Infection".