





COVID-19 Vaccines – Basic Knowledge You Need to Know

COVID-19 vaccines* provided under the Government's COVID-19 Vaccination Programme are developed with different technology platforms. They provide antigens through different mechanisms for the body to recognize the virus and build up immunity against it.

Technology platform	Inactivated 	#Messenger RNA (mRNA) 		
	Strain	Ancestral	Ancestral	Original / Omicron BA.4-5
Examples of vaccines	CoronaVac (Sinovac) ancestral strain vaccine	Comirnaty (BioNTech / Fosun) ancestral strain vaccine	Comirnaty (BioNTech / Fosun) bivalent vaccine	Comirnaty (BioNTech / Fosun) XBB.1.5 vaccine Spikevax (Moderna) XBB.1.5 vaccine
Composition	Inactivated SARS-CoV-2 virus	mRNA encoding the spike protein of SARS-CoV-2 virus		

* The vaccines available in Hong Kong are highly effective in preventing severe cases and deaths from COVID-19. Citizens, in particular the high-risk groups, should receive COVID-19 vaccination as early as possible.

Subject to vaccine availability and experts' recommendation, the Government Vaccination Programme will provide monovalent XBB.1.5 mRNA vaccine, bivalent mRNA vaccine or ancestral strain mRNA vaccine for different groups of mRNA vaccine recipients.