

Briefing to Doctors
**Implementation of LP.8.1 COVID-19 vaccines under the Residential
Care Home Vaccination Programme**

Programme Management and Vaccination Division, CHP

12 February 2026

Clinical Incidents related to COVID-19 vaccination at RVP

- All 3 recent serious clinical incidents at RCH settings all related administering COVID-19 vaccines beyond recommended use-by date

Comirnaty XBB COVID-19 vaccine

- 31 December 2024 <https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202412/31/P2024123100510.htm>

Spikevax JN.1 COVID-19vaccine

- 23 July 2025 <https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202507/23/P2025072300686.htm>
- 12 August 2025 <https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202508/12/P2025081200622.htm>

Press Releases

DH investigates incident of RCHE administering COVID-19 vaccines beyond recommended use-by date

The Department of Health (DH) said today (December 31) that a review of the vaccine orders and vaccination records found that

Clinical Incidents related to COVID-19 vaccination at RVP

1. "Preliminary investigations revealed that, on December 18, healthcare workers from the medical organisation concerned visited an RCHE ...and administered the **Comirnaty XBB COVID-19 vaccines**, which were **12 days beyond the recommended use-by date**, to two residents. According to the vaccine manufacturer's recommendation, the Comirnaty XBB COVID-19 vaccine should be **stored at 2 to 8 degrees Celsius after thawing and should be used within 70 days**,"
2. "Upon reviewing the vaccine orders and vaccination records, the DH found that the doctor concerned visited ..., an RCHE in..., ...to provide vaccination services. During these visits, he administered **Spikevax JN.1 COVID-19 vaccines** that were **beyond the recommended use-by date** to 18 residents. According to the manufacturer's recommendation, the vaccine should be **stored at 2 to 8 degrees Celsius after thawing and should be used within 30 days**.
3. "Upon reviewing the vaccine orders and vaccination records, the DH found that the doctor concerned administered **Spikevax JN.1 COVID-19 vaccines** that were **beyond the recommended use-by date** to seven residents at ..., an RCHD in ..., on May 22. While the COVID-19 vaccines concerned have not exceeded their expiry dates, they should be **stored at 2 to 8 degrees Celsius after thawing and used within 30 days**, according to the manufacturer's recommendation."

Background – Vaccine choice

- XFG and NB.1.8.1 are the co-circulating variant strains in Hong Kong.
 - The currently approved COVID-19 vaccines are expected to be effective against XFG and NB.1.8.1,
 - There is no evidence to suggest that XFG or NB.1.8.1 will cause more serious diseases.
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- Based on the latest scientific evidence, the JSC [recommends either monovalent JN.1 vaccine or LP.8.1 vaccine as the vaccine choice in 2026.](#)



Scientific Committee on Emerging and Zoonotic Diseases
and
Scientific Committee on Vaccine Preventable Diseases

Updated Consensus Recommendations on the
Use of COVID-19 Vaccines in Hong Kong
(As of 20 October 2025)

On 20 October 2025, 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) discussed and updated the recommendations on booster COVID-19 vaccination and composition of CC

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Surveillance on SARS-CoV-2 variants

Updated epidemiology of COVID

2. COVID-19 has become activity approximately every six primarily driven by newly emerg changes in herd immunity.

Currently, WHO is monitoring one variant of interest (VOI), which is JN.1, and five VUMs, which are KP.3.1.1, LP.8.1, NB.1.8.1, XEC and XFG. CHP conducts surveillance on SARS-CoV-2 variants from sewage samples. The latest surveillance data (as of Nov 26, 2025) showed that NB.1.8.1 (one of the descendant lineages of XDV) is the most prevalent variant, comprising 49.6% of all characterised specimens. (Figure 1.8)

3. Since 2023, COVID-15 decline in hospitalisation rates, inc mortality rates. However, the re higher among residents of Resider (RCHE) and elderly aged 65 years

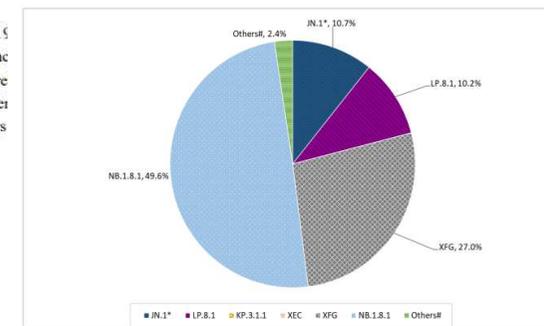


Figure 1.8 Estimated proportion of variants among sewage samples
*Including JN.1 and its descendant lineages, except those individually specified elsewhere in the table.
†Those SARS-CoV-2 variants not classified as VOIs/VUMs by WHO at the time of reporting.
Note: KP.3.1.1, LP.8.1, XEC and XFG are the descendant lineages of JN.1.

https://www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/consensus_recommendations_on_the_use_of_covid-19_vaccines_in_hong_kong_oct2025.pdf

https://www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/covid_flux_week6_12_2_2026_eng.pdf

Booster vaccination

7. Noting the latest local COVID-19 epidemiology, the World Health Organization recommendations and overseas practices, the JSC has reviewed the current high-risk priority groups and continues to recommend COVID-19 booster vaccination in 2026 for the following persons:

- (i) RCHE residents;
- (ii) Community dwelling elderly aged 65 years and above;
- (iii) Persons aged 50 to 64 years with underlying comorbidities¹;
- (iv) Persons with immunocompromising conditions aged 6 months and above; and
- (v) Pregnant women (once during each pregnancy).

8. Healthcare workers² (HCWs) are encouraged to receive the COVID-19 vaccine for personal protection.

9. The timing for receiving a booster dose (i.e. at least six months since the last dose or infection, whichever is later), stipulated in July 2024, remains valid for 2026.

10. The JSC will continue to provide advice on booster vaccination in future according to evolving scientific evidence, epidemiology, clinical outcomes and new variants, alongside vaccine effectiveness and safety.

https://www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/consensus_recommendations_on_the_use_of_covid-19_vaccines_in_hong_kong_oct2025.pdf

Background - Updated priority groups for booster vaccination

JSC recommended following priority groups for booster in 2026:

- residents of RCHEs;
- elderly persons aged 65 years or above who are living in the community;
- persons aged 50 to 64 years with underlying comorbidities;
- persons with immunocompromising conditions aged 6 months or above;
- pregnant women; and
- healthcare workers

Thus, individuals aged 18 to 49 with chronic illnesses, as well as healthy individuals aged 50 to 64, DO NOT belong to the high-risk priority groups requiring booster vaccination.

The updated priority groups recommendation will be implemented **on 1 March 2026**.

在政府疫苗接種計劃下，我應接種多少劑新冠疫苗？
How many doses of COVID-19 vaccine are recommended for me under the Government Vaccination Programme?

更新安排生效日期：
 Updated Arrangement Effective Date:
2026年3月1日
 1 March 2026

免費
Free

加強劑 Booster

屬以下優先組別的市民，如已完成初始劑次，不論過往已接種多少劑疫苗，於接種上一劑疫苗或感染 2019 冠狀病毒至少 180 日後（以較後者為準），可免費接種加強劑：
 Citizens belonging to the following priority groups, if they have completed the initial doses, they can receive a vaccine booster at least 180 days after their last dose or COVID-19 infection (whichever is later) free of charge, regardless of the number of vaccine doses they received in the past.

- 1 居住於安老院舍的人士
Residents of Residential Care Homes for the Elderly
- 2 65 歲或以上居住社區的長者
Elderly persons aged 65 years or above who are living in the community
- 3 60 至 64 歲有長期病的人士
Persons aged 50 to 64 years with underlying comorbidities
- 4 6 個月大或以上免疫力弱的人士
Persons aged 6 months or above with immunocompromising conditions
- 5 孕婦
Pregnant women
- 6 醫護人員
Healthcare workers

免費
Free

初始劑次 Initial doses

5 歲或以上人士 Persons aged 5 years or above



6 個月至 4 歲人士 Persons aged 6 months to 4 years



註：免疫力正常 5 歲或以上免疫力正常人士之詳細說明，詳請向醫生查詢。
 Note: Detailed persons should follow vaccination schedule as immunocompetent persons aged 5 years or above, please consult a doctor for details.

備註 Remarks:

- (1) 有關接種計劃的常見問題，請掃描以下二維碼
For FAQs on the vaccination programme, please scan the following QR code
- (2) 對於不曾感染過 2019 冠狀病毒的人士，應按上述人士一般接種初始疫苗。
For persons with no prior history of COVID-19 infection, they should follow immunocompetent persons' initial history of infection.
- (3) 除了政府提供針對免費的疫苗外，市民可選擇購買在政府認可的藥房購買疫苗。
Apart from vaccine provided under the Government Vaccination Programme, citizens may consult a privately doctor or registered COVID-19 vaccine available in private market and consider receiving the vaccination for personal protection at their own expense.
- (4) 免疫力弱人士包括
Immunocompromised persons include:
 - 1. 最近接受過化療、12 個月內曾接受類固醇或免疫抑制劑治療
Closest chemotherapy or 12 months of steroid or immunosuppressant treatment
 - 2. 曾接受器官移植或接受抗排斥藥物的治療
History of solid organ transplant or use of transplant antirejection therapy
 - 3. 嚴重原發性免疫缺陷或正在接受藥物治療
Severe primary immunodeficiency or on drug therapy
 - 4. 接受造血幹細胞移植或接受放射線治療
Accepted or treated for disease
 - 5. 正接受其他可能削弱免疫力的藥物治療
On other drug therapy which might, or may, compromise immune system function
- (5) 有長期病人士包括
Persons with underlying comorbidities:
 - 1. 糖尿病或高血壓 (患有其他可能影響肺部功能的人士)、肺病
Diabetic and/or hypertensive (along with other conditions affecting lung function)
 - 2. 慢性阻塞性肺病、肥田、慢性阻塞性肺病
Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, obesity, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
 - 3. 嚴重肝病或腎臟病、以藥物及呼吸器、心臟病或中風等藥物、或患有其他增加感染風險的人士、或可能具有削弱肺部功能或增加呼吸器感染、或增加吸入性肺炎、或增加吸入性肺炎的風險。



Updated Poster

- Priority groups for Booster will be increased to 6 groups
- Vaccination Schedule for BioNTech vaccine will be removed (as only Spikevax vaccine will be used now)
- QR code for some FAQs (for children / public / immunocompromised) added

Softcopy of the poster together with the briefing ppt will be sent in due course.

Major changes for the implementation of LP.8.1 vaccines for persons aged 12 years or above

- **Spikevax pre-filled LP.8.1 vaccine (0.5ml)** will be used and new priority groups for booster vaccination will be implemented from [1 March](#).
- New priority groups will be available for selection in eHS(S) from [1 March](#).
- LP.8.1 vaccine for persons aged 12 years old or above will be available for selection in eHS(S) on [1 March](#).

Comparison of COVID-19 Vaccines (for aged ≥ 12 years old)

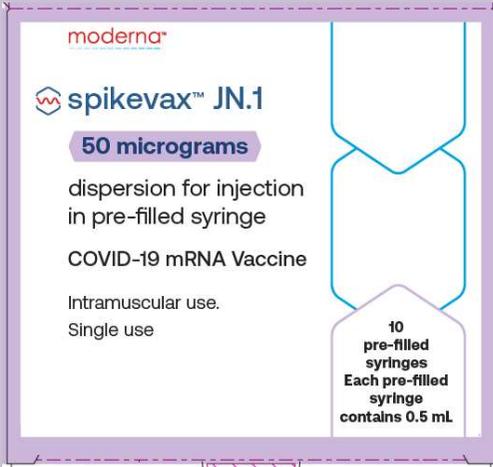
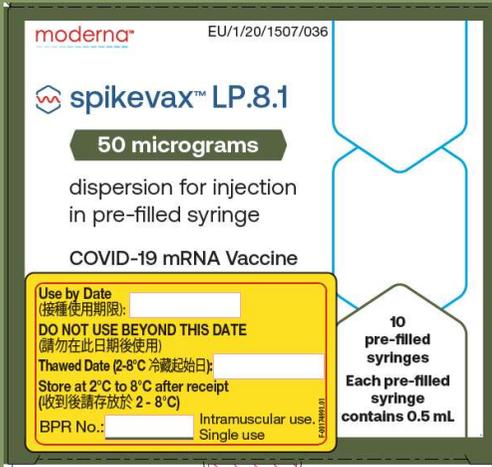
	Comirnaty JN.1 30 micrograms/dose	Spikevax JN.1 50 micrograms/dose	Spikevax LP.8.1 50 micrograms/dose
Presentation	Multi-dose vial (Grey cap)	Pre-filled syringe (without needle)	Pre-filled syringe (without needle)
Dilution	<u>NOT required</u>	<u>NOT required</u>	<u>NOT required</u>
Volume of each dose	<u>0.3mL</u> [30 micrograms of bretovameran]	<u>0.5mL</u> [50 micrograms of SARS-CoV-2 JN.1 mRNA]	<u>0.5mL</u> [50 micrograms of SARS-CoV-2 LP.8.1 mRNA]
Number of doses per vials	<u>6</u> doses*	<u>1</u> dose	<u>1</u> dose
Pack size available	1 or 10 vials per box	10 pre-filled syringes per box	10 pre-filled syringes per box
Consumables available for ordering	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1ml LDV syringe with 25G x 1" fixed needle (100 pcs/box) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 25G x 1" luer-lock needle (100 pcs/box) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 25G x 1" luer-lock needle (100 pcs/box)

*Low-dead volume (LDV) syringes should be used in order to extract 6 doses from a single vial.

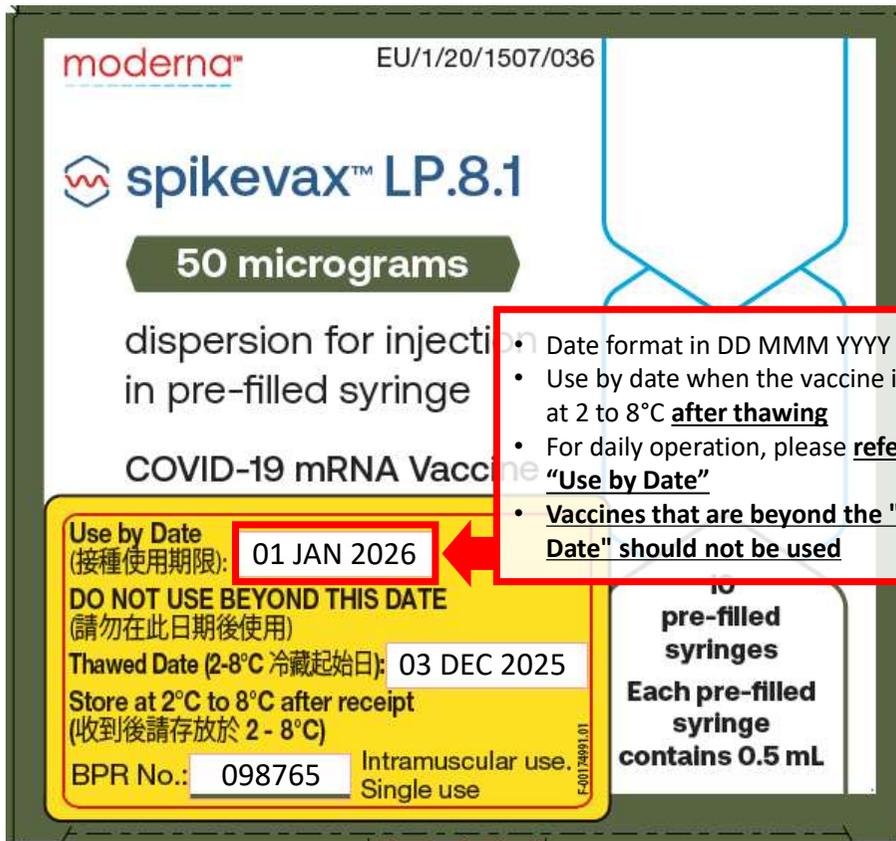
Shelf Life of COVID-19 Vaccines (for aged ≥ 12 years old)

	Comirnaty JN.1 30 micrograms/dose	Spikevax JN.1 50 micrograms/dose	Spikevax LP.8.1 50 micrograms/dose
Thawed	<u>10 weeks</u> (2°C to 8°C)	<u>30 days</u> (2°C to 8°C)	<u>30 days</u> (2°C to 8°C)
Unopened prior to use	<u>12 hours</u> (8°C to 30°C)	<u>24 hours</u> (8°C to 25°C)	<u>24 hours</u> (8°C to 25°C)
Opened vials (after first puncture)	<u>12 hours</u> (2°C to 30°C)		

Use by Date →

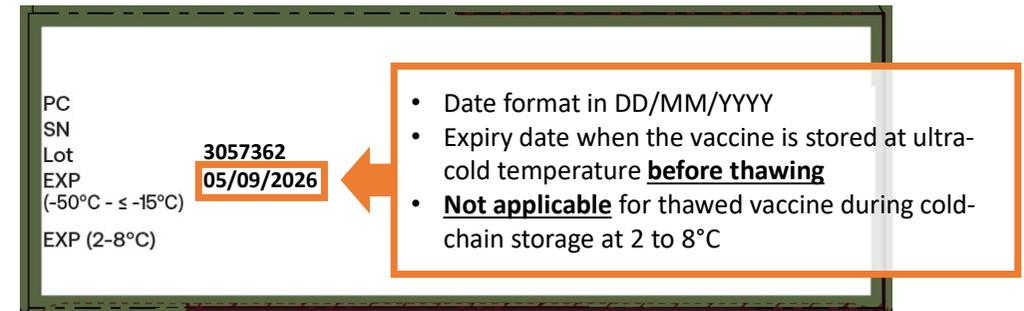
	<p align="center">Comirnaty JN.1 30 micrograms/dose</p>	<p align="center">Spikevax JN.1 50 micrograms/dose</p>	<p align="center">Spikevax LP.8.1 50 micrograms/dose</p>
<p align="center">Outer Box</p>			
<p align="center">Tips</p>	<p>1) Quarantine remaining stock of JN.1 vaccine after roll-out of LP.8.1 vaccine to avoid mix-up</p>	<p>1) Quarantine remaining stock of JN.1 vaccine after roll-out of LP.8.1 vaccine to avoid mix-up</p>	<p>1) Need more storage space 2) Shorter shelf life after thawing (30 days) 3) The needle order quantity is automatically calculated by the system based on past orders. Please keep any remaining needles for future use.</p>

New labelling for Spikevax vaccine



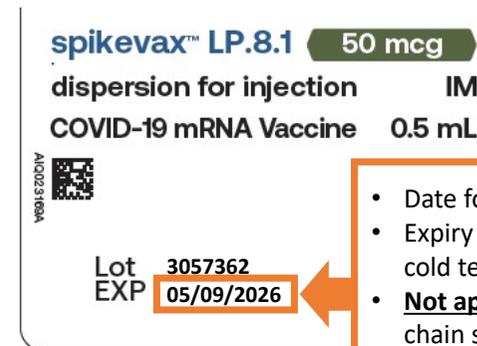
Front of the outer box

- Date format in DD MMM YYYY
- Use by date when the vaccine is stored at 2 to 8°C **after thawing**
- For daily operation, please refer to "Use by Date"
- **Vaccines that are beyond the "Use by Date" should not be used**



Side of the outer box

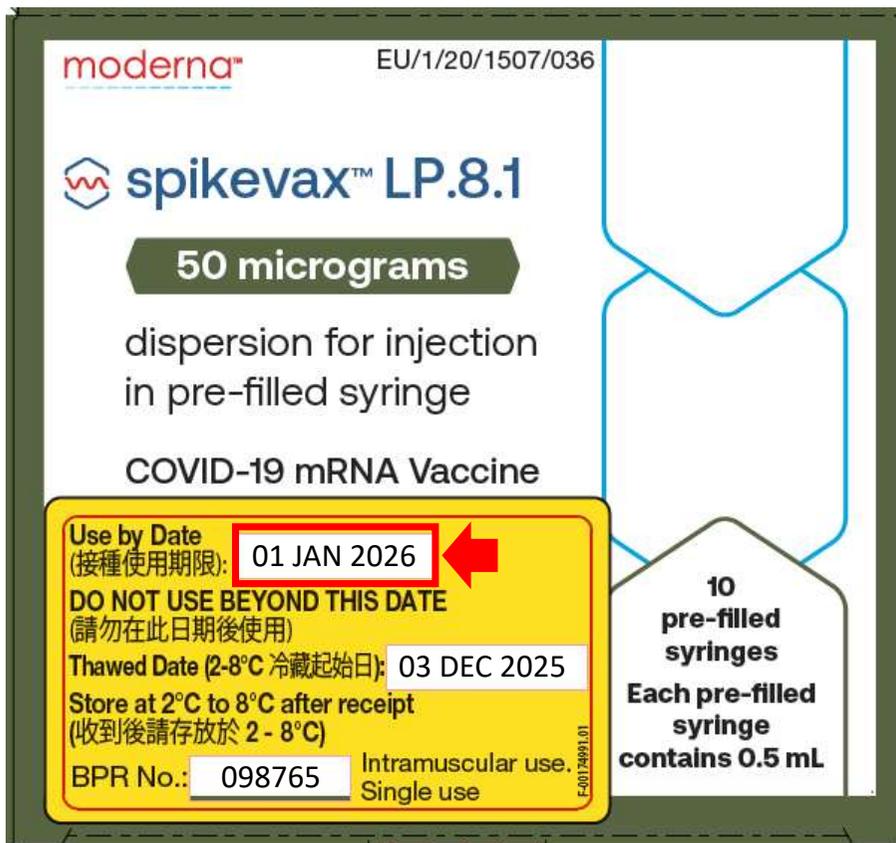
- Date format in DD/MM/YYYY
- Expiry date when the vaccine is stored at ultra-cold temperature **before thawing**
- **Not applicable** for thawed vaccine during cold-chain storage at 2 to 8°C



Syringe label

- Date format in DD/MM/YYYY
- Expiry date when the vaccine is stored at ultra-cold temperature **before thawing**
- **Not applicable** for thawed vaccine during cold-chain storage at 2 to 8°C

New labelling for Spikevax vaccine



Reminder:

- For daily operation, please refer to the **Yellow Label** showing **"Use by Date"** on the outer box on a regular basis and prior to vaccine administration, as the information is not shown on the label of individual pre-filled syringes. Please keep this outer box for future reference.
- Vaccine can be used **until the end of the labelled "Use by Date"**.
- For example, if the "Use by Date" on the label is "01 JAN 2026", it means the vaccine can be used **until 11:59 pm** on that date.
- Vaccines that are **beyond the "Use by Date" should not be used.**
- Expiry Date on the label of individual pre-filled syringes refers to the expiry date when the vaccine is stored at ultra-cold temperature before thawing. It is **not applicable** for thawed vaccine during cold-chain storage at 2 to 8°C.

Important Points to Note

- No change for co-administration arrangement (https://www.chp.gov.hk/en/features/106953.html#FAQ_A8)
- Spikevax LP.8.1 vaccine 50 micrograms/dose will be thawed prior to delivery. Thawed vaccines can be stored at 2°C to 8°C for up to 30 days.
- For daily operation, please refer to yellow label showing “Use by Date” on the outer box on a regular basis and prior to vaccine administration. Vaccines that are beyond the "Use by Date" should not be used.
- Please DO NOT refer to the expiry date on syringe label, BUT only the “Use by Date” on the outer box before administration.
- According to the package insert, the pre-filled syringes may be stored at 8°C to 25°C up to 24 hours after removal from refrigerated conditions.
- If you still have any remaining Comirnaty / Spikevax JN.1 vaccines on day end before D-day, please **remove them from the fridge, quarantine them in a lockable cabinet and mark "Do Not Use" on the outer packaging.**

Vaccine Ordering

- Same as current practice for vaccine ordering via COVID-19 Vaccines Ordering System: https://covid_vac.chp.gov.hk/
- Spikevax LP.8.1 vaccine 50 micrograms/dose will be available for ordering from 16 February 2026 after 11:00am.
- Comirnaty JN.1 vaccine has “Use by Date” on or before 28 February 2026. From 1 March 2026, only Spikevax LP.8.1 vaccine can be used.
- Any remaining Comirnaty JN.1 vaccines should be **removed from the medical fridge, quarantined in a lockable cabinet and marked "Do Not Use" on the outer packaging** according to established procedure. Please ask the RCH to report the remaining quantity of Comirnaty JN.1 vaccines using 院舍新冠疫苗庫存點算報告表 to RVP by 11 Feb, and DH will collect these vaccines asap.
- 25G x 1” luer-lock needles will be required for administration of Spikevax LP.8.1 vaccine 50 micrograms/dose. The needle order quantity is automatically calculated by the system based on past orders. Please keep any remaining needles for future use.

Spikevax LP.8.1 dispersion for injection in pre-filled syringe COVID-19 mRNA Vaccine 50 micrograms/dose 0.5mL

- Manufacturer video for pre-filled vaccine preparation in Cantonese:
https://static.modernatx.com/pm/6cef78f8-8dad-4fc9-83d5-d2fbb7cff867/5e81dd56-a2af-41cb-9b0d-2fda02381bd6/5e81dd56-a2af-41cb-9b0d-2fda02381bd6_video_rendition__v.mp4?tapeID=mn03MvQ3y
- (Note: The video is for reference. For the route of administration, please refer to CHP's website:
https://www.chp.gov.hk/en/features/106953.html#FAQ_A3)
- 1 dose of **0.5 mL** (For single use only)
- **Do not shake or dilute the contents** of the pre-filled syringe
- Pre-filled syringe should be inspected visually for particulate matter and discolouration prior to administration.
- Spikevax LP.8.1 is a white to off-white dispersion. It may contain white or translucent product-related particulates. Do not administer if vaccine is discoloured or contains other particulate matter.

Spikevax LP.8.1 dispersion for injection in pre-filled syringe COVID-19 mRNA Vaccine 50 micrograms/dose 0.5mL

- Use a sterile needle of the appropriate size for intramuscular injection (**21-gauge or thinner needles**).
- With tip cap upright, remove tip cap by twisting **counter-clockwise** until tip cap releases. Remove tip cap in a slow, steady motion. Avoid pulling tip cap while twisting.
- Attach the needle by twisting in a clockwise direction until the needle **fits securely** on the syringe.
- Uncap the needle when ready for administration.
- Administer the entire dose intramuscularly.
- Do not recap the needle after injection. Discard the syringe and needle directly into the sharps box.

Vaccine Management – Cold Chain

- Data logger
 - Check **current, max. and min.** temperature of the refrigerator by generating a temperature log from data logger daily
- Maximum-minimum thermometer
 - record current, max. and min. temperature in the “Daily Fridge Temperature Chart” manually **3 times daily each working day**, preferably in the morning, at noon and in the afternoon
 - **Reset after each recording**
- **Min. Temperature \leq Current Temperature \leq Max. Temperature**
- Contingency plan should be in place for vaccine storage in the event of medical fridge malfunction or electricity disruptions
- Please quarantine the affected vaccines and report to PMVD immediately in case of temperature excursion (outside the recommended range of +2°C to +8°C)

Vaccine storage

Storage of vaccine

- Clear Labelling
 - Vaccine Name
 - Lot number
 - Use by Date
- Vaccines must be kept in their original packaging. Different types of vaccines should be stored separately in **designated colored** plastic containers or open baskets, and then placed in different compartments.
- Vaccines with the most recent Use by Date should be placed at the front and used first.



Wastage Reduction

- Please ensure your venue have preventive measures in place to **avoid unnecessary vaccine wastage**
 - e.g. only sufficient but not excess stocks of vaccine should be stored at your venue.
- Please only take out the required quantity of vaccines from refrigerator for preparation when required.
- The unused pre-filled syringe should continue to be kept in the outer box and stored in a refrigerator (2°C to 8°C).

Spikevax LP.8.1 50 micrograms/dose

- Package insert:

https://www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/packageinsert_lp81_spikevax_50mcg.pdf

End