



# 衛生防護中心

Centre for Health Protection

## Infection Control Advice in Community Vaccination Centres for COVID-19 Vaccination

### I. Preamble

To protect members of the public against COVID-19, a territory-wide COVID-19 Vaccination Programme (the “Programme”) free of charge and on a voluntary basis for all Hong Kong residents would be implemented by the Government. This paper makes recommendations on the infection control measures in Community Vaccination Centres (CVCs) for COVID-19 Vaccination.

### II. Social Distancing

2. Social distancing measures implemented at that time should be observed. Please refer to the website of the Government (<https://www.coronavirus.gov.hk/eng/index.html>).

3. Appropriate distancing (i.e. at least 1 metre) shall be kept at reception, information station, vaccination booths, queue, resting area and other activities if any. All participants shall wear a mask at all times. In exceptional cases where mask cannot be worn, the participants should be attended separately and kept social distancing of at least 1.5 metres.



### **III. Screening**

4. Temperature checking for participants should be in place before entering the venue for vaccination. Clerical staff would check temperature of vaccine recipients before they are guided to the reception.
5. Signage should be displayed at the main entrance to alert the vaccine recipients that he/she should not enter the venue or take the vaccination if he/she is having any symptom such as fever or respiratory symptom or sudden loss of taste or smell.

### **IV. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)**

6. Surgical mask should be worn by all people, including staff, at CVCs.
7. In general, glove, gown or apron, cap, and footwear are not necessary for the administration of vaccination, unless exposure of blood and body fluid from vaccine recipient is anticipated.
8. If gloves have been worn, it should be removed immediately after use for each client with proper hand hygiene.
9. Gloves should be discarded immediately after removal. Gloves should not be washed, decontaminated, or reprocessed for any reuse purpose. Disinfection of gloved hands with alcohol-based handrub is not recommended. The use of gloves does not replace the need for hand hygiene.
10. Where needed, eye protection (e.g. Goggle, face shield) should be used when approaching client who have not worn mask properly within the distance of 1 metre.
11. Please refer to Personal Protective Equipment Section of ICB Infection Control Guidelines for detailed PPE indications, usage, and doffing and donning procedures (<https://www.chp.gov.hk/en/resources/346/365.html>).

12. Staff should ensure the availability of PPE on site.

## V. Hand Hygiene

13. Hand hygiene practice should be adopted and strictly followed during vaccination procedure. Staff should perform hand hygiene after administering vaccination to each client and for the following 5 moments (Refer to Figure 1 – Centre for Health Protection (CHP) Poster of “*Hand Hygiene 5 Moments in Hospital or Clinic Settings*”):

- (a) Before touching a patient
- (b) Before clean / aseptic procedure
- (c) After body fluid exposure risk
- (d) After touching a patient
- (e) After touching patient surroundings

Figure 1 – CHP Poster of “Hand Hygiene 5 Moments in Hospital or Clinic Settings”



14. Hand hygiene with proper hand rubbing by using soap and water or alcohol-based handrub for at least 20 seconds and 7 steps of hand hygiene techniques should be performed in between each and after last vaccination (Refer to Figure 2 - CHP Poster of “7 Steps on Hand Hygiene”).

Figure 2 - CHP Poster of “7 Steps on Hand Hygiene”



15. Clean hands with liquid soap and water when hands are visibly soiled or likely contaminated with body fluid.

16. When hands are not visibly soiled, clean them with 70-80% alcohol-based handrub is also effective.

17. Apply a palmful of alcohol-based handrub to cover all surfaces of the hands. Rub hands according to the 7 steps of hand hygiene technique for at least 20 seconds until the hands are dry.

18. Please refer to the Recommendations on Hand Hygiene and Use of Gloves in Health Care Settings ([https://www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/recommendations\\_on\\_hand\\_hygiene\\_and\\_use\\_of\\_gloves\\_in\\_health\\_care\\_settings.pdf](https://www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/recommendations_on_hand_hygiene_and_use_of_gloves_in_health_care_settings.pdf)).

## **VI. Safe Injection Practices and Sharps Handling**

19. For good practice in preventing sharp injury, please refer to the “*Prevention of Sharps Injury and Mucocutaneous Exposure to Blood and Body Fluid in Healthcare Setting*”, published by CHP ([https://www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/prevention\\_of\\_sharps\\_injury\\_and\\_mucocutaneous\\_exposure\\_to\\_blood\\_and\\_body\\_fluids.pdf](https://www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/prevention_of_sharps_injury_and_mucocutaneous_exposure_to_blood_and_body_fluids.pdf)).

20. For post-exposure management, please refer to the CHP guideline “*Recommendations on the Management and Postexposure Prophylaxis of Needlestick Injury or Mucosal Contact to HBV, HCV and HIV*” at [https://www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/recommendations\\_on\\_postexposure\\_management\\_and\\_prophylaxis\\_of\\_needlestick\\_injury\\_or\\_mucosal\\_contact\\_to\\_hbv\\_hcv\\_and\\_hiv\\_en\\_r.pdf](https://www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/recommendations_on_postexposure_management_and_prophylaxis_of_needlestick_injury_or_mucosal_contact_to_hbv_hcv_and_hiv_en_r.pdf).

## **VII. Cleaning and Disinfection**

21. Environmental cleaning and disinfection should be arranged at least twice daily or when the environment is visibly soiled. The site should be cleaned and disinfected with 1 in 99 diluted household bleach (mixing 1 part of household bleach containing 5.25% sodium hypochlorite with 99 parts of water), left for 15-30 minutes, and then rinsed with water and wiped dry. For metallic surface, disinfect with 70% alcohol.

22. Frequently touched areas need to be cleaned and disinfected more frequently or when is visibly soiled.



23. If water dispensers are in place in CVCs for restricted use by staff, water dispensers should be cleaned at least twice daily (i.e. after each session). The Health Advice on Using Water Dispenser by CHP should be observed ([https://www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/guidelines\\_on\\_use\\_of\\_drink\\_fountain\\_public.pdf](https://www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/guidelines_on_use_of_drink_fountain_public.pdf)).

- (a) In order to keep the nozzle free from contamination with respiratory secretions or germs from hands, you should not let your body parts or water bottles come into contact with the nozzle and protective guard.
- (b) All should use a container (e.g. cup/bottle) for drinking.

### **VIII. Waste Handling**

24. Regulation of clinical waste handling is under the purview of Environmental Protection Department (EPD). All clinical waste generated should be properly handled and disposed (including proper package, storage and disposal) in accordance with the Waste Disposal (Clinical Waste) (General) Regulation. For details, please refer to the EPD's Code of Practice for the Management of Clinical Waste for Small Clinical Waste Producers (<https://www.epd.gov.hk/epd/clinicalwaste/en/information.html>).

25. Clinical waste generated (mainly used needles, syringes, cartridges, and cotton wool balls fully soaked with blood) should be disposed of directly into sharps box with cover. Clinical waste must not be collected or disposed of as municipal solid waste or other types of wastes.

26. Alcohol swabs and cotton wool balls slightly stained with blood, which are not clinical waste by definition, should also be properly handled and disposed of as general refuse.

27. Other waste of the centre should be handled as below:

- (a) waste must be properly packed in a plastic garbage bag;
- (b) the packed waste should be temporarily placed at a designated waste collection area inside CVCs;

- (c) supervisors of the CVCs and cleansing service contractors need to ensure that waste of the centre (properly packed) need to be transported to appropriate place by dedicated vehicles; and
- (d) the designated waste collection area in the CVCs should be cleaned and disinfected with 1:49 diluted bleach afterwards.

**Prepared by Department of Health**

**January 2021**