

本署檔號 Our Ref. : (5) in DH SEB CD/8/27/6 VI
來函檔號 Your Ref :
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28 April 2006

Dear Doctor,

Influenza Vaccination for the 2006/07 Season

I am pleased to inform you that the Scientific Committee on Vaccine Preventable Diseases (SCVPD) has provided updated recommendations on the use of influenza vaccine for the coming influenza season (06/07). The SCVPD recommends the following target groups of people receive influenza vaccination for the coming influenza season (for details please refer to our website at the URL http://www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/sas_vaccination0607_en_20060428.pdf):-

- (A) Elderly persons living in residential care homes
- (B) Long-stay residents of institutions for the disabled
- (C) Elderly persons aged 65 years or above
- (D) Persons with chronic illnesses
- (E) Health care workers
- (F) Poultry workers
- (G) Children aged 6 to 23 months
- (H) All pregnant women

As compared with last year, the SCVPD now recommends ALL pregnant women to receive influenza vaccine taking the latest scientific evidence, overseas practices and vaccine safety into account. Influenza vaccination with inactivated influenza vaccine in pregnancy is considered safe and is recommended by the World Health Organization. The SCVPD also advises other members of the public to consult their doctors for the need for vaccination for personal protection and/or reducing the risk of transmitting influenza to high risk persons with whom they regularly come into contact. Meanwhile, the government is reviewing the SCVPD's recommendations to define target groups for the next year's Government Influenza Vaccination Programme (GIVP). We will inform you again shortly when this is ready.

You may wish to consider early vaccine procurement now that the SCVPD has come up with influenza vaccination recommendations for 06/07. This will help ensure adequate supply of influenza vaccines for your clients. You may find information on registered influenza vaccines in Hong Kong at the following website <http://www.psdh.gov.hk/eps/index.jsp>. Concerted efforts from both private and public sectors are needed for successful implementation of the SCVPD's recommendations and your continuous support is highly appreciated.



Yours faithfully,

(Dr Thomas TSANG)

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