

本署檔號 Our Ref. : (56) in DH SEB CD/8/27/6 VI
來函檔號 Your Ref :
電話 Tel. :
傳真 Fax No. :

16 October 2006

Dear Doctor,

Influenza Vaccination

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 to receive influenza vaccination for the coming influenza season:-

- (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 illness
- (E) Health care workers
- (F) Poultry workers
- (G) Children aged 6 to 23 months
- (H) Pregnant women

Besides, other members of the public are advised 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. Details of the SCVPD's recommendation can be accessed at <http://www.chp.gov.hk>.

It takes the private and public sectors to work together to implement recommendations of the SCVPD. The government will provide influenza vaccination to a subset of the above target groups, such as recipients of Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (please refer to the attached document or visit the website of CHP at <http://www.chp.gov.hk> for more information on the scope of coverage by the Government Influenza Vaccination Programme).



The private sector has all along been a major provider of influenza vaccinations. This year, there have been concerns of tight vaccine supplies from some private doctors. The Department of Health is closely monitoring the issue and is finding ways to alleviate the problem. In addition to the 300,000 doses of vaccine that are planned to be delivered in the government programme, the Department has ordered an extra 90,000 doses of vaccine for contingency purpose. The Department will also continue to contact overseas vaccine manufacturers for the possibility of increasing supplies to Hong Kong. We will keep you updated of the situation.

Attached please find a poster on influenza vaccination and you are welcome to collect free copies of Adult Immunization Cards, posters and pamphlets from the offices of the Central Health Education Unit, by completing and fax the enclosed reply slip in advance.

Besides vaccinating your patients, please be reminded to give yourself and your health care staff influenza vaccine. This will reduce the risk of transmitting influenza to your patients particularly those who are at high risk of developing complications from influenza.

Finally, the following health advice for influenza is pertinent besides vaccination:-

- To build up good body immunity by having a proper diet, regular exercise and adequate rest, reducing stress and avoiding smoking;
- To maintain good personal hygiene, and wash hands after sneezing, coughing or cleaning nose; and
- To wear a mask if having symptoms of respiratory infection.

Yours sincerely,



(Dr SK CHUANG)

Acting Consultant Community Medicine (Communicable Disease)
Centre for Health Protection

Encls.