



本署檔號 OUR REF.: (3) in DH/ERPMB/PMVD/VS/VSS/P3-1/10
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30 September 2021

Dear Doctors,

COVID-19 Vaccination For Elderly Remains a Priority

We write to appeal and solicit your support to encourage **your elderly clients** to receive COVID-19 vaccination as soon as possible.

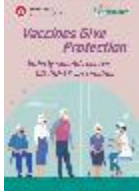
The Consensus Interim Recommendations on the Use of COVID-19 Vaccines in Hong Kong issued by the Scientific Committee on Emerging and Zoonotic Diseases and the Scientific Committee on Vaccine Preventable Diseases in June, July and 15 September emphasized that **elderly should receive COVID-19 vaccines as soon as possible, as long as they are not suffering from acute illnesses**. Those who have received **influenza vaccines before can safely receive COVID-19 vaccines**. Older adults, especially those residing in **residential care homes**, should be vaccinated against COVID-19 well **before the arrival of the winter influenza season** as they have a higher risk of severe disease and death.

In order to assist and facilitate more elderly to get vaccinated to reduce the risk of morbidity and mortality, the Government is making efforts to promote vaccination among elderly such as arranging health talks cum on-site vaccination, walk-in tickets at Community Vaccination Centres and vaccination at the residential care homes. Elderly may also visit designated private clinics convenient to them for vaccination.

We strongly appeal that you would **proactively encourage** vaccination among your elderly clients during clinic visits. To facilitate your assessment of your elderly clients' suitability for vaccination, the "Interim Guidance Notes On Common Medical Diseases and COVID-19 Vaccination In Primary Care Settings" (https://www.covidvaccine.gov.hk/pdf/Guidance_Notes.pdf) is prepared and updated regularly with contributions from the Federation of Medical Societies of Hong Kong and professional bodies. In the recent September edition, **"The Hong Kong Geriatrics Society Guidance on COVID-19 Vaccination for the community living older adults and those residing in residential care homes"** has provided handy FAQ at Annex (page 7-9) which can assist you in explaining the reasons and the benefits of vaccination to your clients.

Please also find the following pamphlet/ infographics available at the designated website for your use.

- **Elderly should receive COVID-19 vaccination**



https://www.covidvaccine.gov.hk/pdf/leaflet_elderly_ENG.pdf

https://www.covidvaccine.gov.hk/pdf/leaflet_elderly_CHI.pdf

- **Can I have COVID-19 Vaccination? 3 Important Considerations**



https://www.covidvaccine.gov.hk/pdf/Guidance_3_Important_Considerations_en.pdf

https://www.covidvaccine.gov.hk/pdf/Guidance_3_Important_Considerations_tc.pdf

- **Can I have COVID-19 Vaccination? Examples of Chronic Diseases**



https://www.covidvaccine.gov.hk/pdf/Guidance_Examples_of_Chronic_Diseases_en.pdf

https://www.covidvaccine.gov.hk/pdf/Guidance_Examples_of_Chronic_Diseases_tc.pdf

With your support and participation, more elderly would be benefited from the COVID-19 Vaccination Programme. Together, WE fight the virus!

Thank you for your attention.

Yours sincerely,

(Dr Anne CHEE)
for Director of Health