

本署檔號 Our Ref. : (3) in DH SEB CD/8/27/6/4  
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23 July 2010

Dear Doctor,

**Seasonal Influenza Vaccination for the 2010/11 Season**

I am pleased to inform you that the Scientific Committee on Vaccine Preventable Diseases (SCVPD) has provided updated recommendations on the target groups for seasonal influenza vaccination in the coming 2010/11 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 illnesses \*
- (E) Health care workers
- (F) Children aged 6 months to 5 years
- (G) Pregnant women
- (H) Poultry workers
- (I) Pig farmers and pig-slaughtering industry personnel

This year, the SCVPD has expanded the recommendation to the group of pig farmers and pig-slaughtering industry personnel to prevent emergence of new influenza A virus in either human or pig hosts. The above list of target groups is available at CHP website ([www.chp.gov.hk](http://www.chp.gov.hk)). A more detailed recommendation will be uploaded to CHP website in due course.



\* People with chronic illness mainly refer to those who have chronic cardiovascular (except hypertension without complication), pulmonary, metabolic or renal disease, who are immunocompromised, children and adolescents (aged 6 months to 18 years) on long-term aspirin therapy, and those with chronic neurological condition that can compromise respiratory function or the handling of respiratory secretions or that can increase the risk for aspiration or those who lack the ability to care for themselves for their increased risk of complications and death associated with seasonal influenza infection.

Obese persons without clinical risk factors are not included in the 2010/11 seasonal influenza vaccination target groups. They may receive seasonal influenza vaccination for personal protection.

The disease burden in other members of the public not included in the recommendations is generally lower in terms of hospitalisation rate, complications and death. Those who wish to obtain seasonal influenza vaccine for their personal protection are advised to consult their doctors.

To ensure adequate supply of influenza vaccines for your clients, you may wish to consider vaccine procurement early. 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.

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)

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