Don't Wait Get a Jab

Keep Flu Away

Centre for Health Protection

2125 2125

www.chp.gov.hk

Department of Health

What is seasonal influenza?

Seasonal influenza is an acute illness of the respiratory tract caused by influenza viruses. Influenza viruses mainly spread by respiratory droplets. Seasonal influenza is characterised by symptoms such as fever, sore throat, cough, runny nose, headache, muscle ache and general tiredness. The symptoms are usually self-limiting. However, seasonal influenza may cause serious illnesses in elderly and persons with weakened immunity, and may result in bronchitis, pneumonia, encephalopathy, or even death. Serious infection and influenza-related complications may also occur in healthy individuals.

How to prevent seasonal influenza?

To prevent seasonal influenza, individuals should receive seasonal influenza vaccination (SIV) early and maintain good personal and environmental hygiene.

Why is it important to receive seasonal influenza vaccination (SIV)?

SIV is one of the effective means to prevent seasonal influenza and its complications, as well as reducing influenza-related hospitalisation and death.

Is it necessary to get vaccinated against seasonal influenza every year?

Yes. The circulating seasonal influenza strains may change from time to time. The composition of SIV is updated every year according to the circulating strains. Getting vaccinated with the latest SIV will provide better protection for the current season. Therefore, it is recommended to receive SIV annually.

Who should receive seasonal influenza vaccination (SIV)?

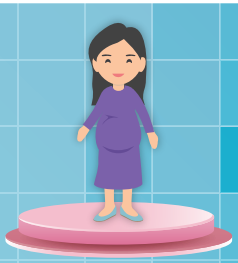
Given that influenza vaccines are safe and effective and severe cases can occur even in healthy persons, **all members of the public aged 6 months or above**, except those with known contraindications, should receive SIV for personal protection.

In addition, certain groups have increased risk of having severe influenza or transmitting influenza virus to high-risk persons. These groups should have higher priority in receiving SIV.

The priority groups recommended by the Scientific Committee on Vaccine Preventable Disease (SCVPD):

Healthcare Workers

Persons Aged 50 Years or Above



Pregnant Women

Residents of Residential Care Homes

Persons with Chronic Medical Problems

Children and Adolescents Aged 6 Months to Under 18 Years

Poultry Workers

Pig Farmers and Pig-slaughtering Industry Personnel

Know more about influenza vaccines

Inactivated influenza vaccine, live-attenuated influenza vaccine and recombinant influenza vaccine are all effective vaccines to protect against influenza. They are recommended for use in Hong Kong by the SCVPD.

	Inactivated Influenza Vaccine (IIV)	Live-attenuated Influenza Vaccine (LAIV)	Recombinant Influenza Vaccine (RIV)
Recommended Age	6 months or above	2 to 49 years	18 years or above
Route of Administration	Intramuscular injection (subcutaneous injection in some cases)	Intranasal	Intramuscular injection
Composition	● Contains inactivated (killed) influenza viruses	● Contains weakened influenza viruses	● Produced by recombinant technology and does not require egg or influenza virus in the production process
Dosing Schedule	● After vaccination, it takes around two weeks for antibodies to develop and be protected against influenza virus ● Receive annually (preferably before winter influenza season) to have protection for both winter and summer influenza seasons ● Persons aged 9 years or above: Single dose ● Children below 9 years of age: ○ Single dose in this season for those who have previously received seasonal influenza vaccine ○ Two doses with an interval of at least 4 weeks for those who have not received seasonal influenza vaccine previously		
Simultaneous Administration with Other Vaccines*	● Other inactivated or live vaccines may be given on the same day or at any interval ● If given on the same day, injection should be at different sites	● Other live vaccines not administered on the same day should be administered at least four weeks apart ● Other inactivated vaccines can be administered on the same day or at any interval	● Other inactivated or live vaccines may be given on the same day or at any interval ● If given on the same day, injection should be at different sites
	*COVID-19 vaccine and seasonal influenza vaccine can be given on the same visit under informed consent.		
Persons with egg allergy	● Generally safe to receive vaccination ● Mild allergy: Can get vaccinated in primary care setting ● Severe allergy: Should have vaccination administered by healthcare professionals in appropriate medical facilities with capacity to recognise and manage severe allergic reactions		● Generally safe to receive vaccination since it does not contain egg protein
Contraindications (situations not suitable for SIV)**	● History of severe allergic reactions to any of the vaccine component or a previous dose influenza vaccination ● Those with bleeding disorders or on anticoagulants should consult their doctors for advice	● History of severe allergic reactions to any vaccine component or after a previous dose of any influenza vaccine ● Concomitant aspirin or salicylate-containing therapy in children and adolescents ● Children 2 years through 4 years who have asthma or who have had a history of wheezing in the past 12 months ● Persons who are immunocompromised due to any cause ● Close contacts and caregivers of severely immunosuppressed persons who require a protected environment ● Pregnancy ● Receipt of influenza antiviral medication within previous 48 hours	● History of severe allergic reactions to any of the vaccine component or a previous dose influenza vaccination ● Those with bleeding disorders or on anticoagulants should consult their doctors for advice
	**Individuals with fever should defer vaccination till recovery.		
Possible Side Effects * **	● Local reactions: ○ Pain ○ Redness and swelling ● Other symptoms: ○ Fever ○ Tiredness ○ Muscle pain	● Nasal congestion or runny nose ● Fever ● Sore throat ● Increased risk of wheezing (children aged below five with recurrent wheezing or persons of any age with asthma)	● Local reactions: ○ Pain ○ Tenderness ● Other symptoms: ○ Headache ○ Fatigue ○ Muscle pain ○ Joint pain
	***Side effects of SIV are generally mild and temporary. If you experience persistent fever, severe allergic reactions (e.g. difficulty in breathing, swelling of the lip or tongue, hives, etc.) or other adverse events after receiving SIV, please consult a doctor immediately.		

The above information is for reference only.
Members of the public should consult their family doctors before receiving influenza vaccine.

2023/24

疫苗接種計劃
Vaccination Schemes

Vaccination arrangement for Hong Kong residents

The Government implements the Government Vaccination Programme (GVP) and Vaccination Subsidy Scheme (VSS) to provide free or subsidised SIV to eligible Hong Kong residents. The subsidy level under VSS 2023/24 is $260 per dose. Please note that the fees charged by different private doctors may vary. Some private doctors do not charge any fee.

Members of the public can consult their family doctors to receive SIV for personal protection.

For details and other arrangement of free or subsidised SIV, please visit the Centre for Health Protection Website (www.chp.gov.hk) or call 2125 2125 for enquiries.

Influenza vaccine can be co-administered with COVID-19 vaccine under informed consent. Receiving influenza vaccination and COVID-19 vaccination may reduce the likelihood of hospitalisation and length of stay.

Department of Health
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