



**衛生防護中心**  
Centre for Health Protection

## **Scientific Committee on Vaccine Preventable Diseases**

### **Statements on Influenza Vaccination for the 2004/05 Season**

Influenza occurs in Hong Kong throughout the year with seasonal peaks most commonly in February and March, sometimes July and August. Influenza causes significant disease burden in some population groups where it is associated with increased risk of complications. Influenza vaccination is one of the effective means in preventing influenza and its complications. The following statements are made by Scientific Committee on Vaccine Preventable Diseases in relation to target groups for influenza vaccination in Hong Kong.

#### **Elderly Persons Living in Residential Care Homes**

There is strong local and overseas evidence that influenza vaccination is effective in reducing the risk of complications from influenza among elderly persons living in residential care homes. Influenza vaccination is recommended for this group of persons.

#### **Long-stay Residents of Institutions for the Disabled**

Local data shows that long-stay residents of institutions for the mentally and physically disabled have high rates of hospitalization during influenza outbreaks. Their disability hinders them from undertaking adequate hygiene measures in an institutional environment which favors the transmission of influenza. Influenza vaccination is recommended for this group of persons.



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#### **Elderly Persons Aged 65 Years or Above**

Elderly persons aged 65 years or above are at high risk of complications and excess hospital admissions from influenza. Influenza vaccination is

recommended for this group of persons.

### **Persons with Chronic Illnesses**

Based on overseas evidence and recommendations by the World Health Organization, influenza vaccination is recommended for persons aged > 6 months who have chronic cardiovascular, pulmonary, metabolic or renal disease, who are immunocompromised, or children and adolescents (aged 6 months to 18 years) on long-term aspirin therapy.

### **Health Care Workers**

Based on recommendations by the World Health Organization, and to reduce the risk of transmitting influenza to patients who are at high risk of complications from influenza, influenza vaccination is recommended for frontline health care workers who have contact with patients.

### **Poultry Workers**

The emergence of avian influenza H5N1 in 2004 among both poultry and humans in regional countries is a cause for concern. To reduce the chance of simultaneous infection by human influenza and avian influenza, influenza vaccination is recommended for poultry workers, who are at increased risk of exposure to avian influenza.

### **Children aged 6 to 23 months**

Some local and overseas evidence show that children aged 6 – 23 months have excess hospitalizations associated with influenza. Influenza vaccination is recommended for personal protection for this group of persons.

### **Recommend vaccine composition**

Recommended vaccines to be used in the 2004–2005 season (northern hemisphere winter) contain an A/New Caledonia/20/99(H1N1)-like virus; a A/Fujian/411/2002(H3N2)-like virus; and a B/Shanghai/361/2002-like virus.

Centre for Health Protection  
September 2004

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