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BY EMAIL AND BY POST

17 June 2019

Dear Doctors Enrolled in VSS,

Vaccination Subsidy Scheme (VSS) 2019/20
and Elderly Health Care Voucher Scheme (HCVS)
Invitation to Briefing and Request for Service Fee Information

Thank you for your support and contribution to VSS. We would like to inform you of: i) the arrangements of VSS in the 2019/20 season; ii) to provide you an update of HCVS; iii) to invite you to the concerned briefings; and iv) to request for information of service fees you will charge under VSS for the coming season.

I. Arrangements of VSS 2019/20

A. Seasonal Influenza Vaccination & Pneumococcal Vaccination

For VSS 2019/20, the eligible groups and subsidy levels for subsidized seasonal influenza vaccination and pneumococcal vaccination remain the same as those of the 2018/19 season.

Inactivated trivalent and quadrivalent influenza vaccines (IIV) as well as live attenuated influenza vaccines (LAIV) can be used but the subsidy levels will be the same. Details of the eligible groups, subsidy levels and vaccination arrangement are available at ***Annex I***.



B. Agreement and Doctors' Guide

The Terms and Conditions of the Agreement for VSS (the Agreement) in 2019/20 season and the Doctors' Guide will soon be updated and uploaded to the Centre for Health Protection (CHP) website. I would like to draw your particular attention that an enrolled doctor under VSS is required to comply with the Agreement and the Doctors' Guide.

A separate e-mail will be sent to you in due course highlighting the changes in the Agreement and the Doctors' Guide for VSS 2019/20.

C. Vaccination at Non-Clinic Settings

As vaccination programmes for school outreach activities in primary schools, and kindergartens / kindergarten-cum-child care centres / child care centres in the coming season have been re-structured, the Enhanced VSS Outreach Vaccination programme will be terminated in 2019/20 season. Nevertheless, doctors could still arrange outreach vaccination at schools but the subsidy will be the same as other outreach vaccination. School children, regardless of their Hong Kong residential status, will be eligible for vaccination subsidy.

Outreach vaccination activities under VSS will continue to run in parallel for all eligible groups. The subsidy levels for seasonal influenza vaccines and pneumococcal vaccines will be the same as those administered in clinics.

II. Update of the HCVS

The HCVS was launched in 2009 to subsidise eligible elders to use private primary care services. The Government will implement several enhancement measures under the HCVS on 26 June 2019, including providing each eligible elder an additional one-off \$1,000 worth of vouchers and increasing the accumulation limit of vouchers to \$8,000 as a regular measure; setting a cap of \$2,000 every two years on the voucher amount that can be spent by each eligible elder on optometry services; and improving the enquiry system for checking voucher balances.



III. Invitation to Briefings

To further explain the new arrangement for VSS 2019/20 as well as provide more details about the HCVS, we would like to invite you to attend **one of the** following identical briefing sessions:

Title: Epidemiology of Seasonal Influenza and Pneumococcal Infection in Hong Kong, Recommendations on Seasonal Influenza Vaccination and Pneumococcal Vaccination, Vaccination Subsidies Scheme (VSS) 2019/20 and Elderly Health Care Voucher Scheme (HCVS)	
Date: 10 July 2019 (Wednesday)	Date: 12 July 2019 (Friday)
Time: 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm	Time: 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm
Venue: Lecture Theatre, G/F, Centre for Health Protection, 147C Argyle Street, Kowloon	Venue: Wan Chai Activities Centre, LG/F, Wan Chai Market, Wan Chai, Hong Kong (The entrance is next to 28 Wan Chai Rd.)

To reserve seats for the briefing session, **please return the completed reply slip (at Annex II) on or before 5 July 2019 to the Vaccination Office by fax to 2713 9576 or email to vacs@dh.gov.hk.**

IV. Service Fee Information under VSS

We would like to request for the following updated information should you wish to continue your enrolment in the VSS 2019/20:

- (i) the specific target group(s) under the categories of vaccination mentioned at **Annex I** that you would like to provide service under VSS 2019/20 ; and
- (ii) the corresponding service fees charged by you in respect of each of these specific target group(s) and type(s) of vaccination that you opt to serve.



Please complete the “Provision of Information on Service Fees” Form at **Annex III** and kindly note that your subsidy claims will **NOT** be processed if you do not provide the information. The above information

will be displayed at the VSS On-line Service Directory for public viewing. It is the obligation of VSS enrolled doctors to provide accurate information so as to maintain information transparency and easy search by the public.

For updates on other particulars, please use the attached “Request to Change Particulars” Form at *Annex IV*. Completed form(s) should be returned to the Vaccination Office by fax to 2713 9576 or email to vacs@dh.gov.hk **on or before 17 September 2019**.

V. Enquiry

We look forward to your continuous support to VSS 2019/20. Please feel free to contact the Vaccination Office at our new designated hotline for VSS doctors, 2125 2299, for any enquiry.

Thank you for your attention.

Yours faithfully,



(Dr Grace TONG)
for Director of Health

