

Vaccination Subsidy Scheme (VSS) 2021/22

Information about Seasonal Influenza Vaccination



(I) Vaccination Subsidy Scheme (VSS)

In order to prevent seasonal influenza and its complications, the Centre for Health Protection (CHP) will continue to implement the VSS to encourage seasonal influenza vaccination (SIV) in eligible persons. Eligible persons may receive subsidised SIV from private doctors enrolled in the VSS with subsidy of HK\$240 per dose. The fees charged by different private doctors may vary. Some private doctors do not charge any fee. Eligible children of age less than 9 years and have not received SIV before are entitled to receive 2 doses of SIV with subsidy.



Vaccination Schemes

1. Who are eligible to receive SIV under the VSS?

The following Hong Kong residents are eligible to receive SIV subsidised by the Government:

- Pregnant women;
- Persons of age 50 years or above (count by year of birth);
- Children of age between 6 months and less than 12 years, or children of age 12 years or above but studying at a primary school in Hong Kong;
- Persons with intellectual disability (PID) holding the Registration Card for People with Disabilities indicating intellectual disability or mental handicap, or a certificate issued by a registered doctor / the person in-charge of designated PID institutions certifying the PID is entitled to receive subsidised vaccination;
- Persons receiving Disability Allowance (DA) holding the approval letter for Disability Allowance issued by the Social Welfare Department;
- Persons of age 12 to under 50 years receiving standard rate of “100% disabled” or “requiring constant attendance” under the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) Scheme: please provide valid “Certificate of CSSA Recipients (for Medical Waivers)” issued before 15 December 2018 or the Annex page of valid “Notification of Successful Application” / “Notification of Revision of Assistance”, and sign the self-declaration form provided at clinics enrolled in the VSS before vaccination.

Some persons may be eligible to receive free vaccination at public clinics under the Government Vaccination Programme. Please visit the CHP website (www.chp.gov.hk) for details.

2. Which doctors have enrolled in the VSS and are providing subsidised SIV?

Enrolled doctors display a VSS logo in their clinics. Information about enrolled doctors and extra fees they charge will be uploaded to the CHP website (<https://apps.hcv.gov.hk/public/en/SPS/Search>).



List of Participating Doctors of VSS

3. Who should sign the Consent to Use Vaccination Subsidy Form (Form)?

For persons of age below 18 years or with mental incapacitation, the Form should be completed and signed by parents / guardians. For other vaccine recipients, they can complete and sign the Form by themselves.

4. If the parent / guardian is unable to accompany the eligible children / wards personally to the doctor's clinic, can he / she ask another person, e.g. a relative / domestic helper, to accompany the eligible person there?

Yes. The parent / guardian must complete and sign the Form before the child / ward receives subsidised SIV at the doctor's clinic. The Form is available at the enrolled doctors' clinics or can be downloaded from the CHP website.

(II) Information about SIV

A person getting influenza and COVID-19 at the same time may be more seriously ill and has higher death rate. Influenza vaccination may reduce hospitalisation and length of stay. Inactivated influenza vaccine (IIV), recombinant influenza vaccine (RIV) and live attenuated influenza vaccine (LAIV) are recommended for use in Hong Kong by Scientific Committee on Vaccine Preventable Diseases. There are some differences in their indications. Most IIVs are recommended for use among persons aged 6 months or above, including those who are healthy, pregnant women and those with chronic medical problems. For RIV, it is recommended for use in individuals of 18 years of age or above. For LAIV, it can be used for individuals of age 2 to 49 years except those who are pregnant, immunocompromised or with other contraindications. Please consult your family doctor for more details. As the body takes about 2 weeks after SIV to develop antibodies for protection against influenza virus, SIV should be received as early as possible.

For frequently asked questions on SIV, please visit the CHP website
<https://www.chp.gov.hk/en/features/100764.html>.



Frequently Asked Questions
(Seasonal Influenza Vaccination)

Vaccination Subsidy Scheme (VSS) 2021/22

Information about Pneumococcal Vaccination for elderly of age 65 years or above



(I) Vaccination Subsidy Scheme (VSS)

Eligible elderly can receive pneumococcal vaccination (PV) throughout the year with subsidy. Subsidy level of one dose of 23-valent pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine (23vPPV) is HK\$300 while 13-valent pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV13) is HK\$760.



Vaccination Schemes

(II) Information about PV for elderly

The elderly are at higher risk of developing severe or even life-threatening invasive pneumococcal diseases such as infection of blood, lung and membrane of brain. Receiving PV can effectively prevent pneumococcal infection as well as its complications. To strengthen the prevention of pneumococcal infection, the Government will provide subsidised PV to Hong Kong residents of age 65 years or above with subsidy details as follows:

Elderly of age 65 years or above	Have not received any PV	Have received 23vPPV	Have received PCV13	Have received both PCV13 and 23vPPV
Without high-risk conditions	Subsidise one dose of 23vPPV	No vaccination needed	No vaccination needed	No vaccination needed
With high-risk conditions	Subsidise one dose of PCV13 followed by one dose of subsidised 23vPPV one year after	Subsidise one dose of PCV13 one year after the previous 23vPPV	Subsidise one dose of 23vPPV one year after the previous PCV13	No vaccination needed

High-risk conditions include:

- History of invasive pneumococcal diseases, cerebrospinal fluid leakage or cochlear implant;
- Chronic cardiovascular (except hypertension without complication), lung, liver or kidney diseases;
- Metabolic diseases including diabetes mellitus or obesity (Body Mass Index 30 or above);
- Immunocompromised states related to weakened immune system due to conditions such as asplenia, human immunodeficiency virus infection / acquired immune deficiency syndrome or cancer / steroid treatment; and
- Chronic neurological conditions that can compromise respiratory functions or the handling of respiratory secretions, or increase the risk for aspiration or those who lack the ability to take care of themselves.

1. Is pneumococcal vaccine safe? What are the possible side effects?

Pneumococcal vaccines have been demonstrated to be safe. Common adverse reactions include slight swelling and tenderness at the injection site shortly following injection but most resolve within 2 days. Some may experience mild fever, fatigue, headache, chills or muscle pain.

2. Who are not suitable to receive pneumococcal vaccine?

Severe allergic reaction following a prior dose of pneumococcal vaccine or to the vaccine component; or any diphtheria toxoid-containing vaccine is a contraindication to further doses of pneumococcal vaccine.

3. Can pneumococcal vaccines be given prior to / after certain medical procedures?

For individuals who will undergo elective splenectomy, pneumococcal vaccines should be given at least 2 weeks before the procedures if possible. Pneumococcal vaccines should ideally be given before or after completion of chemotherapy / radiotherapy but they may still be given during long term use of chemotherapeutic agents as clinically indicated.



Frequently Asked Questions
(Pneumococcal Vaccination)

For frequently asked questions on PV, please visit the CHP website
<https://www.chp.gov.hk/en/features/100770.html>.