



本署檔號 OUR REF.: (117) in DH/ERPM/PMV/VS/VSS/P1-2  
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**BY EMAIL**

30 July 2021

Dear VSS Doctor,

**Last Service Date for Seasonal Influenza Vaccination (SIV)  
under Vaccination Subsidy Scheme (VSS) 2020/21  
and Highlights of Briefing Materials for VSS 2021/22**

We would like to express our heartfelt thanks for your participation and support to the 2020/21 VSS. As at 26 July 2021, around 527,000 doses of SIV were administered under VSS, representing around 4% increase when compared to last year.

As the 2020/21 VSS is approaching the end, we would like to draw your attention to the following arrangement and also provide the highlights of the briefing materials for 2021/22 VSS below.

**2020/21 VSS**

1. As the last expiry date of seasonal influenza vaccine in the market is 31 July 2021, the last service date for providing seasonal influenza vaccinations under the 2020/21 VSS is therefore also **31 July 2021**. The claims for application of reimbursement of subsidy should be submitted and confirmed via eHealth System (Subsidies) within 7 days from the day of vaccination for duly processing. The last date for submitting claims is **6 August 2021**. In case there are questions on submitting subsidy claims, please contact the Programme Management and Vaccination Division at 2125 2299 for assistance. In order to better facilitate processing of claims, please keep proper vaccination records for the claims to be submitted for reimbursement of subsidy. Expired vaccines should be disposed according to relevant guidelines.
2. The security token and the smart ID reader(s) issued to you are to be used for every vaccination season. Please kindly keep them for use in the next vaccination season. You are encouraged to use the smart ID reader for vaccine recipients using Hong Kong Identity Card for submitting reimbursement claims to reduce input error. If you would like to replace the smart ID reader due to damage or loss, you are welcome to contact Programme Management and Vaccination Division.

3. If there is any change of your enrollment in VSS such as closure of existing place of practice or withdrawal from VSS, please kindly inform the Programme Management and Vaccination Division in advance for necessary arrangement e.g. return of scheme equipment including token and smart ID reader(s), etc, in accordance with the stipulation in the Agreements of VSS.

### **2021/22 VSS**

The presentation materials for briefings on 8 and 9 July have been uploaded to the Centre for Health Protection website (<https://www.chp.gov.hk/en/features/101401.html>) for your information. Please find the highlights as follows:

1. According to the Recommendations of the Scientific Committee on Vaccine Preventable Diseases on Seasonal Influenza Vaccination for the 2021-22 Season in Hong Kong (April 2021), it is recommended to leave an interval of at least **14 days between administration** of SIV and COVID-19 vaccines (BNT162b2 or CoronaVac). We shall provide **update guidelines when newer development or recommendation is available.**
2. Co-infection of COVID-19 and influenza increases morbidity and mortality, and influenza vaccination might reduce the likelihood of hospitalisation and length of stay. The risk groups of COVID-19 and influenza are similar, it is important to ensure that **people who are at greater risk of influenza infection (e.g. health workers, older adults and pregnant women) are prioritised to receive SIV.**
3. To minimize the risk of vaccine shortage, please estimate the amount of vaccines you would use and **place order early** to secure sufficient vaccines for the coming VSS 2021/22.
4. All enrolled doctors have to use Purpose-built vaccine refrigerators (**PBVR**) **for vaccine storage by year 2023/24.**

We look forward to working with you closely in the coming year to promote SIV to the community.

Yours sincerely,



(Grace TONG)  
for Director of Health