

Protect Your Child from Seasonal Influenza-

Join the Childhood Influenza Vaccination Subsidy Scheme (CIVSS)

What is Childhood Influenza Vaccination Subsidy Scheme (CIVSS)?

To encourage seasonal influenza vaccination among eligible Hong Kong children, CIVSS will continue in 2012/13. Starting from 24 September 2012, children may receive an \$130 Government subsidy per dose of influenza vaccine they receive from private doctors who have enrolled into the Scheme. Two doses of influenza vaccines are required for a child if he/she has not been vaccinated against influenza before.

Is my child eligible to receive the Government subsidy?

To be eligible for the Government subsidy of influenza vaccine, the child must be a Hong Kong resident AND:

- between the age of 6 months and less than 6 years; or
- aged 6 years or above but attending a kindergarten or child care centre in Hong Kong.

Eligible children from families receiving Comprehensive Social Security Assistance may receive free influenza vaccination from Maternal and Child Health Centres (MCHCs) of the Department of Health (DH) starting from 1 November 2012.

When should parents bring their children for subsidised influenza vaccination?

CIVSS starts on 24 September 2012. As it usually takes about 2 weeks for antibodies to develop and provide protection against influenza virus, parents are advised to bring their child to the participating private doctors' clinics for vaccination as early as possible. This will ensure that the child is adequately vaccinated before arrival of the next winter influenza season, which usually comes during the first quarter of every year.

How do parents know which doctors have joined the CIVSS providing subsidised influenza vaccination?

Some private doctors, but not all, will join the CIVSS. Starting from 24 September 2012, participating private doctors will display a CIVSS logo near the entrance of their clinics for parents' recognition. In addition, information about doctors who have joined the CIVSS and the fees they charge will be uploaded to the Centre for Health Protection (CHP) website www.chp.gov.hk



Logo



poster

Note: Doctors who have no CIVSS logo displayed near the clinic entrance may not provide subsidised vaccination to children.

How much do parents pay for influenza vaccination of children?

Parents will pay a discounted fee (deducting the government subsidy from the original fee) to the participating private doctors for influenza vaccination service. For example, if the original fee charged by the doctor is \$200, under the CIVSS, the parent only has to pay \$70. It is important to note that the fees charged by different private doctors may vary.

To enhance transparency, doctors will display their fees for vaccination on a CIVSS poster in the clinic waiting area.

If the parent is unable to accompany the child personally to the doctor's clinic, can he/she ask a relative / teacher / domestic helper to bring the child there?

Yes. To receive CIVSS subsidy, the parent must duly complete and sign the attached *Consent to Use Vaccination Subsidy* form beforehand. The form is also available at participating doctors' clinics, MCHCs of the DH, or by downloading from the CHP website.

Steps to take for parents to bring their child to receive subsidised influenza vaccination from a private doctor

1. Select a private doctor enrolled in the CIVSS 2012/13.
2. Bring along your child's Hong Kong Birth Certificate or Hong Kong Identity Card as a proof of your child's Hong Kong resident status. If your child does not have the above documents, you have to bring along other travel documents that can prove your child's Hong Kong resident status. If your child is 6 years or above but attending a kindergarten or a child care centre, please also bring along your child's Student Handbook / Student Card / Pick Up Card and submit a photocopy to the doctor; or submit a stamped Pre-primary Institution Certification Form (The Certificate can be downloaded from the CHP website www.chp.gov.hk).
3. Bring along all of your child's vaccination record(s) for doctor's reference.
4. Consult the doctor for your child's vaccination(s) and indicate your wish to use the vaccination subsidy.
5. Duly complete and sign the *Consent to Use Vaccination Subsidy*. If you ask a representative (e.g. relative / teacher / domestic helper) to take the child to the doctor's clinic, you will have to fill in and sign the Consent prior to visiting the doctor's clinic.
6. Staff in the clinic will open an eHealth account for your child / check your child's eHealth account through the eHealth System.
7. Vaccination will be given to your child.
8. Make use of the Government subsidy for payment.
9. Keep the vaccination record(s) properly.
10. Staff of the DH may contact you to verify whether your child has received vaccination(s) and used the subsidy.

PROTECT YOUR CHILD FROM SEASONAL INFLUENZA - SEASONAL INFLUENZA VACCINATION HELPS (2012/13)

1. Why do children require seasonal influenza vaccination?

Seasonal influenza (influenza) is an infectious disease caused by influenza virus. It is usually self-limiting with recovery in 2 – 7 days. However, it can be a serious illness to young children or the weak and frail, and may be complicated by bronchitis, chest infection or even death in the most serious cases. Serious influenza infection can even occur in healthy individuals.

The Scientific Committee on Vaccine Preventable Diseases of the Centre for Health Protection recommends children between the age of 6 months and less than 6 years to receive influenza vaccination in 2012/13 because it is one of the effective means to protect them from influenza and its complications.

2. What types of influenza vaccines are there in Hong Kong? How to select for my child?

There are two types of influenza vaccines licensed in Hong Kong. The 'flu shot' is an inactivated trivalent influenza vaccine (inactivated vaccine) containing dead virus and is given by injection. The live attenuated influenza vaccine contains weakened viruses and is a nasal-spray vaccine. Both vaccines are effective, but they are suitable for different people. Healthy children aged 2 years or above can choose to receive either inactivated vaccine or live attenuated vaccine if they have no contraindication. Please consult your doctor for details.

3. Inactivated influenza vaccine given by injection: Who are suitable for receiving the vaccine? Who are not? What are the possible side effects?

Most inactivated influenza vaccines are recommended for use among persons aged 6 months or above, including those who are pregnant, healthy or those with chronic medical problems. People who are allergic to a previous dose of inactivated influenza vaccine or other vaccine components (e.g. neomycin or polymyxin) are not suitable to have inactivated influenza vaccination. Individuals with diagnosed or suspected egg allergy who are considering an influenza vaccination should be evaluated by a specialist (allergist or immunologist) for egg allergy and for administration of inactivated influenza vaccine if clinically indicated.

Persons with a history of Guillain-Barré Syndrome (GBS) developed within 6 weeks after receiving influenza vaccine should consult a doctor before receiving the vaccination. If an individual has fever on the day of vaccination, the vaccination should be deferred till recovery.

Inactivated influenza vaccine is very safe and usually well tolerated apart from occasional soreness, redness or swelling at the injection site. Some recipients may experience fever, muscle and joint pains, and tiredness beginning 6 – 12 hours after vaccination and lasting last up to 2 days. If fever or other symptoms persist, please consult your doctor. Immediate severe allergic reactions like hives, swelling of the lips or tongue, and difficulties in breathing are rare and require emergency medical attention.

Influenza vaccination may rarely be followed by serious adverse events such as GBS (1 to 2 case per million vaccinees), inflammation of brain membranes or brain disease (1 in 3 million doses distributed) and severe allergic reaction (anaphylaxis) (9 in 10 million doses distributed). However, influenza vaccination may not necessarily have causal relations with these adverse events.

4. Live attenuated influenza vaccine given by nasal spray: Who are suitable for receiving the vaccine? Who are not? What are the possible side effects?

Live attenuated influenza vaccine is only recommended for use among healthy, non-pregnant and non-immunocompromised persons aged 2 – 49 years, and should not be given to people with underlying chronic medical problems that may predispose them to complications following influenza infection.

Besides, the vaccine is not suitable for those who have allergic history to live attenuated influenza vaccine or its other vaccine components or egg, and children aged 2 – 4 years who had history of wheezing or asthma during the preceding 12 months.

The most common adverse reactions following live attenuated vaccine administration in children are runny nose, nasal congestion and fever. Serious problems after receiving live attenuated influenza vaccine are rare.

5. Is it necessary to get vaccinated against influenza every year?

Yes. The circulating influenza strains may change from time to time. In accordance with the circulating strains, the influenza vaccine composition is updated every year to enhance protection. The immunity built up in a vaccinated person in prior season will decrease over time and may become too low to provide protection in the next season. In addition, the vaccine compositions of 2012/13 influenza vaccine are different from those in 2011/12.

6. What is the influenza vaccine composition for use this year?

The vaccine in 2012/13 contains the following:

- an A/California/7/2009 (H1N1)-like virus (formerly known as Human Swine Influenza)
- an A/Victoria/361/2011 (H3N2)-like virus
- a B/Wisconsin/1/2010-like virus

7. Does the 2012/13 influenza vaccine recommended for use contain Influenza A (H1N1) 2009 virus? Is the vaccine safe?

As recommended by the World Health Organization, the 2012/13 seasonal influenza vaccine contains human swine influenza virus (A/California/7/2009 (H1N1)-like virus). According to the World Health Organization, human swine influenza vaccines match the excellent safety profile of seasonal influenza vaccines, which have been used for more than 60 years.

8. How many doses of influenza vaccination will my child need?

To ensure adequate immunity against influenza, children under 6 years old who have never received any influenza vaccine are recommended to be given 2 doses of influenza vaccine with a minimum interval of 4 weeks. Children who have received influenza vaccine in the 2011/2012 season or before are recommended to receive 1 dose in the 2012/13 season. Healthy children aged 2 or above can choose to receive either inactivated or live attenuated influenza vaccine.

9. My child has asthma. Should he/she receive the influenza vaccination?

Children having asthma are advised to receive influenza vaccine. People suffering from lung diseases such as asthma are recommended to receive inactivated seasonal influenza vaccine because of an increased risk of complications associated with influenza. However, they should not receive live attenuated influenza vaccine.

10. Besides vaccination, what are the other protective measures against influenza?

For prevention against influenza, vaccinated individuals should maintain good personal and environmental hygiene practices, balanced diet, regular exercise, adequate rest, and no smoking.

For more information about the CIVSS, please visit the Centre for Health Protection website www.chp.gov.hk or call 2125 2125.

Consent to Use Vaccination Subsidy
Childhood Influenza Vaccination Subsidy Scheme
Department of Health

Transaction No.: _____
Void Transaction No.: _____

Notes: This Form must be legibly completed to be valid.
One form is required for each dose of influenza vaccine given to a child.
**Delete as appropriate*

(To be completed by parent or legal guardian)

I consent to use the following Government subsidy for my child/ward to receive vaccination provided by (name of doctor) _____ on (date of vaccination) _____ under the Childhood Influenza Vaccination Subsidy Scheme (*Put a “✓” where appropriate*):

- Subsidy for first dose / only dose of seasonal influenza vaccination for this season
- Subsidy for second dose of seasonal influenza vaccination for this season

For first subsidy claim this season,

- My child/ward is between the age of 6 months and less than 6 years on the day of vaccination
- My child/ward is 6 years or above but attending a kindergarten/child care centre in Hong Kong (*please show the doctor proof of the child's/ward's pre-school attendance e.g. student handbook/student card/pick up card, and submit a photocopy for record purpose, or submit to the doctor the stamped Pre-primary Institution Certification Form*)

The personal details of my child/ward:	
Name: (English) _____ , _____ <small>(surname) (given name)</small>	(Chinese) _____
Date of Birth: ____/____/____ <small>(dd) (mm) (yyyy)</small>	Sex: *Male / Female
Identity document (Please tick the box and fill in the document number as appropriate);	
<input type="checkbox"/> Hong Kong Birth Certificate Registration No.:	_____ ()
<input type="checkbox"/> Hong Kong Permanent Identity Card No.: Date of Issue: ____/____/____ (dd/mm/yyyy)	_____ ()
<input type="checkbox"/> Hong Kong Re-entry Permit No.: Date of Issue: ____/____/____ (dd/mm/yyyy)	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Document of Identify – Document No.: Date of Issue: ____/____/____ (dd/mm/yyyy)	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Permit to Remain in HKSAR (ID 235B)- Birth Entry No.: Permitted to remain until: ____/____/____ (dd/mm/yyyy)	_____ ()
<input type="checkbox"/> Non-Hong Kong Travel Documents No.: Visa / Reference No.:	_____ _____-_____-()
<input type="checkbox"/> Certificate issued by the Births Registry for adopted children - No. of Entry:	_____/_____

Undertaking and Declaration

1. I declare the information provided in this consent form is correct.
2. I agree to provide my child's/ward's personal data in this consent form and any information related to this consultation for the use by the Government for the purposes as set out in the "Statement of Purpose". I hereby give consent to the doctor to transfer and release my child's/ward's personal data and any information related to this consultation to the Government, its agents, or other persons authorised by the Government. I note that the Department of Health may contact me to verify whether I have received vaccination(s) by using the Government subsidy.
3. For Smart Identity Card holder: I agree to authorise the doctor to read my child's/ward's personal data [limited to Hong Kong Identity Card No., Name (in English and Chinese), date of birth and date of issue of Hong Kong Identity Card] stored in the chip embodied in my child's/ward's Smart Identity Card for the use by Government for the purposes as set out in the "Statement of Purpose".
4. This consent shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of Hong Kong Special Administrative Region and I and the Government shall irrevocably submit to the exclusive jurisdiction of the Courts of Hong Kong Administrative Region.
5. I have read this consent carefully and fully understood my obligations and liability under this consent.

Signature: _____ Date: _____ (dd/mm/yyyy)
Name: _____ Relationship: Father Mother Guardian
Telephone Number: _____

Statement of Purpose

Purposes of Collection

1. The personal data provided will be used by the Government for one or more of the following purposes:
 - (a) for creation, processing and maintenance of an eHealth account, payment of subsidy, and the administration and monitoring of the Vaccination Subsidy Schemes, including but not limited to a verification procedure by electronic means with the data kept by the Immigration Department;
 - (b) for statistical and research purposes; and
 - (c) any other legitimate purposes as may be required, authorised or permitted by law.
2. The vaccination record made for the purpose of this consultation will be accessible by health care personnel in the public and private sectors for the purpose of determining and providing necessary health care service to the recipient.
3. The provision of personal data is voluntary. If you do not provide sufficient information, you may not be able to use the subsidy.

Classes of Transferees

4. The personal data you provide are mainly for use within the Government but they may also be disclosed by the Government to other organisations, and third parties for the purposes stated in paragraphs 1 and 2 above, if required.

Access to Personal Data

5. You have a right to request access to and correction of your personal data under sections 18 and 22 and principle 6, schedule 1 of the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance. A fee may be imposed for complying with a data access request.

Enquiries

6. Enquiries concerning the personal data provided, including the request for access and correction, should be addressed to:

Executive Officer,
Vaccination Office,
Centre for Health Protection,
2/F 147C Argyle Street, Kowloon
Telephone No.: 2125 2125