



中華人民共和國香港特別行政區政府總部食物及衛生局

Food and Health Bureau, Government Secretariat
The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
The People's Republic of China

Our ref.: L/M (6) to FHB/H/16/38/3 Pt.4

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21 December 2009

Miss Mary SO
Clerk to Panel on Health Services
Legislative Council
Legislative Council Building
8 Jackson Road
Central
Hong Kong

Dear Miss SO,

**Meeting of Legislative Council Panel on Health Services
on 9 November 2009
Implementation of Seasonal Influenza and
Pneumococcal Vaccination Schemes**

At the meeting of the Legislative Council Panel on Health Services on 9 November 2009, the Administration briefed Members about the implementation of the seasonal influenza and pneumococcal vaccinations. The Administration was requested to provide a response in writing on the suggestion of including primary and secondary students in the human swine influenza vaccination programme after consulting the Scientific Committees of the Centre for Health Protection. The Administration's response is as follows –

The decision recommending that five target groups should take the human swine influenza (HSI) vaccination was made by the Scientific Committees of the Centre for Health Protection. They comprise local experts in the field and have held extensive discussions. They have taken into account

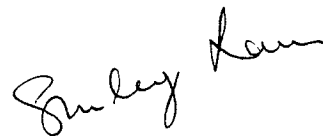
a range of scientific considerations including local disease epidemiology, international experience, World Health Organization's recommendations, and the possible risk of medical complications, hospitalization and deaths arising from HSI before recommending the five target groups to receive vaccination. These target groups are: healthcare workers; persons with chronic illnesses and pregnant women; children between the age of 6 months and less than 6 years; elderly persons aged 65 or above; and pig farmers and pig-slaughtering industry personnel.

The Scientific Committees are of the opinion that more scientific evidence is required to support that the protective benefits of vaccination against potential adverse effects are greater in the mass vaccination of other population groups such as primary and secondary school students at this stage.

Nonetheless, the Administration is mindful that some non-target groups may wish to receive HSI vaccination for personal protection. In this regard, we have reserved 500,000 doses of vaccines to private doctors for such purposes. People who fall outside the target groups may receive vaccination from private clinics at their own cost when the second batch of vaccines arrive in Hong Kong in around January 2010.

The Government will continue to keep a close watch of the situation of the influenza pandemic, and review the HSI vaccination programme as and when necessary.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shirley Lam". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

(Ms Shirley LAM)
for Secretary for Food and Health