

**For discussion on
14 December 2009**

Legislative Council Panel on Health Services

Human Swine Influenza Vaccination Programme

Purpose

This paper briefs Members on the implementation details of the Human Swine Influenza (HSI) vaccination programme.

Summary of implementation plan

2. We have announced the HSI vaccination programme on 30 November 2009. A summary of the implementation plan is set out below –

- (a) commencement of vaccination in Hospital Authority (HA) and Department of Health (DH) clinics for target groups on Monday, **21 December 2009**;
- (b) commencement of the HSI vaccination subsidy programme to target groups at participating private clinics on Monday, **28 December 2009**; and
- (c) making available HSI vaccine at cost to private doctors for non-target groups in **mid January 2010**.

Background

3. French vaccine manufacturer Sanofi Pasteur S.A. is engaged to provide 3 million doses of HSI vaccine to Hong Kong at a price of \$79 per dose. The first batch of 500 000 doses of vaccine will arrive Hong Kong on 10 December 2009, with the remaining 2.5 million doses scheduled to arrive in batches in January 2010.

4. Based on the recommendations of the Scientific Committees under the Centre for Health Protection (CHP), HSI vaccination is recommended for the

following five target groups, which have an estimated population of around two million –

- (a) healthcare workers;
- (b) persons with chronic illness and pregnant women;
- (c) children between the age of 6 months and less than 6 years;
- (d) elderly persons aged 65 years or above; and
- (e) pig farmers and pig-slaughtering industry personnel.

Implementation details

First batch of 500,000 doses

5. The first batch of 500,000 vaccine doses will be used for vaccinating the five target groups recommended by the Scientific Committees as a priority. DH and HA will each take up 200,000 doses and the remaining 100,000 doses will be distributed to the private sector.

Where to receive vaccination

6. We encourage the target groups to receive HSI vaccination where they normally go for medical services. For example, existing clients of DH/HA who belong to the above target groups can receive free HSI vaccination at their regular DH/HA clinics. Those who have been visiting private doctors may receive vaccination at their own doctors' clinics. If their doctors have not participated in the HSI subsidy scheme (details in paragraph 9 below), they may either receive subsidised vaccination at clinics of other private doctors who have enrolled in the HSI subsidy scheme, or receive free vaccination at public clinics if they wish.

Vaccination by the public sector

7. Starting from **21 December 2009**, the hospitals, clinics and medical centres under DH and HA will provide free HSI vaccination service on a voluntary basis to three of the five target groups, namely –

- (a) persons with chronic illnesses and pregnant women;
- (b) children between the age of 6 months and less than 6 years; and
- (c) elderly persons aged 65 years or above.

8. DH and HA will deploy 300 additional staff to undertake the vaccination, on top of redeploying existing staff. A total of over 220 HA/DH hospitals and clinics will provide the vaccination service, including 100 clinics and 41 hospitals

of HA and 82 clinics and centres operated by DH. The clinics and centres will follow their normal operating hours. For example, the 73 HA general outpatient clinics (GOPCs) will be open from 9 am – 1 pm and 2 pm – 5 pm on weekdays and 9 am – 1 pm on Saturdays. Target groups can walk-in the GOPCs for injection if the clinic's capacity allows, or they could make an appointment. We will closely monitor the actual demand and make appropriate adjustments to the opening hours accordingly.

Vaccination by the private sector

9. In addition, we will launch the HSI Vaccination Subsidy Scheme (HSIVSS) on **28 December 2009** to provide more choices to the public. Under the Scheme, the above three target groups can opt to receive vaccination from private doctors who have joined the subsidy scheme. The Government will subsidise an amount of \$129 per dose, including \$79 for the vaccine cost and \$50 for the injection fee. The HSI Vaccination Subsidy Scheme will use the electronic platform of the Elderly Health Care Voucher Pilot Scheme, i.e. the “eHealth System” to record the vaccination and to arrange for reimbursement to private doctors. Enrolled doctors will display a logo at the clinic entrance and indicate their vaccination charges on a poster inside their clinics. Addresses and telephone numbers of clinics and the fee schedules will also be posted on the website of CHP.

10. Private doctors can determine the fees for the vaccination services, but we will encourage them not to charge any extra fee for vaccinating the target groups.

Healthcare workers and pig industry personnel

11. As regards the other two target groups, healthcare workers will be vaccinated at their workplace or they will receive personal invitations issued by DH for free vaccination at designated HA clinics. Pig industry personnel will be invited for free vaccination at designated HA clinics.

Non-target groups

12. Those who do not belong to the target groups may seek vaccination in private clinics at their own cost upon arrival of the second batch of vaccines in January 2010. About 500,000 doses of vaccine would be made available to the private sector at cost (i.e. \$79 per dose) for this purpose.

Summary of vaccination locations

13. A summary of the vaccination locations for the five target groups is set out below –

Target groups	Vaccination locations
(a) Healthcare workers (150,000) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff working in DH, HA, private hospitals, Residential Care Homes and clinics of private doctors enrolled in HSIVSS Vaccination Subsidy Scheme (HSIVSS) • Healthcare professionals registered with their respective Boards or Councils and not covered above • Staff of medical, dental or Chinese medicine clinics not covered above 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workplace • Designated HA General Outpatient Clinics (GOPCs) • Designated HA GOPCs
(b) Persons with chronic illnesses and pregnant women (710,000) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow-up in public sector • Follow-up in private sector 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow-up clinics of HA or DH • HSIVSS enrolled doctors • HA GOPCs (for persons with chronic illnesses) or DH Maternal and Child Health Centres (for pregnant women)
(c) Children between the age of 6 months and less than 6 years (380,000)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DH Student Health Service Centres • HSIVSS enrolled doctors
(d) Elderly persons aged 65 years or above (830,000)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HA GOPCs • DH Elderly Health Centres (for members) • HSIVSS enrolled doctors
(e) Pig farmers and slaughterhouse workers (1,550)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designated HA GOPCs

Publicity Arrangement

14. We have announced the arrangements of the HSI vaccination programme on 30 November 2009. DH will launch a series of publicity arrangements through dissemination of leaflets, broadcast of TV and radio Announcement of Public Interest, etc. Details about the vaccination programme have also been uploaded onto the website of CHP (www.chp.gov.hk). In addition, DH has set up a hotline (2125 2125) to answer public enquiries. We will also brief Chairmen and Vice Chairmen of the District Councils as well as the Elderly Commission on the details of the HSI vaccination programme in December 2009.

Advice Sought

15. Members are invited to note the content of this paper.

Food and Health Bureau
Department of Health
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