

**For information on
9 November 2009**

**Legislative Council Panel on Health Services
Implementation of Seasonal Influenza and
Pneumococcal Vaccination Schemes**

Purpose

This paper briefs Members on the details and progress of implementation of the seasonal influenza and pneumococcal vaccination schemes launched by the Government in 2009-10.

Background

2. Since 1998, the Government has been providing free seasonal influenza vaccination to target groups at public hospitals/clinics under the annual "Government Influenza Vaccination Programme". To reduce the risk of high risk groups from getting seasonal influenza and pneumococcal infections as well as to prevent the related complications, hospitalisation and mortality caused by these diseases, the Food and Health Bureau (FHB) and the Department of Health (DH) have introduced a series of vaccination schemes.

Details and Progress of Implementation

3. The implementation details of the seasonal influenza and pneumococcal vaccination schemes launched by the Government in 2009-10 are as follows:

(I) Seasonal influenza and pneumococcal vaccination schemes for the elderly

4. According to the recommendations of the Scientific Committee on Vaccine Preventable Diseases under DH, elders should receive seasonal influenza vaccination annually and pneumococcal vaccination on a one-off basis. Pneumococcal vaccination protection can last up to ten years. The detailed vaccination arrangements are as follows:

(A) *Government Vaccination Programme*

5. In 2009-10, the Government has extended the scope of “Government Influenza Vaccination Programme” and renamed it as “Government Vaccination Programme” (GVP) to provide free seasonal influenza and pneumococcal vaccinations to all elders living in residential care homes, those aged 65 years or above with chronic illness attending public clinics, and those aged 65 years or above receiving Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA). Elders with Hong Kong residency status are eligible to receive free vaccination service at general/specialist outpatient clinics under the Hospital Authority (HA) (applicable to follow-up patients) and chest clinics under DH (applicable to existing patients). On the other hand, DH has arranged visiting medical officers to provide vaccination services at DH’s Elderly Health Centres and residential care homes. The programme has started since 19 October this year and will last until 31 March 2010. As at 31 October, about 72 000 and 37 000 elders have received seasonal influenza and pneumococcal vaccination respectively under GVP.

(B) *Elderly Vaccination Subsidy Scheme*

6. For other elders aged 65 years or above, they can receive seasonal influenza and pneumococcal vaccinations from private doctors with Government subsidy under the “Elderly Vaccination Subsidy Scheme” (EVSS) introduced this year. Under EVSS, Hong Kong residents aged 65 years or above are eligible for Government subsidy to receive vaccination. The subsidy amount covers both vaccine cost and injection cost. The subsidy level for seasonal influenza vaccine cost is \$80 per dose, with another \$50 subsidy for injection cost per dose, thus totalling a subsidy level of \$130. The subsidy level for pneumococcal vaccine cost is \$140 per dose, with another \$50 subsidy for injection cost per dose, thereby totalling a subsidy level of \$190.

7. EVSS uses the electronic platform of the Elderly Health Care Voucher Pilot Scheme, i.e. the “eHealth System”. The Government reimburses the private doctors enrolled under the scheme for the subsidies of vaccine cost and injection cost. Elders can receive the vaccinations simply by bringing their identity document (and their vaccination records if available) and completing and signing the Consent to Use Vaccination Subsidy form at one of the clinics of private doctors enrolled in the scheme. To enhance pricing transparency, enrolled private doctors have to indicate clearly the service fees charge by them at their clinics. DH has uploaded the addresses, telephone numbers and service fees of

enrolled doctors' practices onto the website of the Centre for Health Protection (www.chp.gov.hk) to facilitate choices of elders and their family members. Private medical doctors who enrolled in EVSS have to display the scheme logo at their clinics. The EVSS logo and mini-poster are at **Annex I**.

8. EVSS has started since 19 October this year. So far, over 1 400 private practices have enrolled in the scheme, among which, more than 20% have not incurred any extra charge for their vaccination services. As at 31 October, about 40 000 and 26 000 elders have received seasonal influenza and pneumococcal vaccination respectively under EVSS.

(II) Seasonal influenza and pneumococcal vaccination schemes for children

(A) Government Vaccination Programme and Childhood Influenza Vaccination Subsidy Scheme

9. To minimise the chance of hospitalisation in children caused by seasonal influenza, the Government has introduced two schemes for children to receive seasonal influenza vaccination. First, the Government continues the existing GVP to provide free seasonal influenza vaccination at Maternal and Child Health Centres (MCHCs) under DH for all children aged between 6 months to below 6 years from families receiving CSSA.

10. In addition, the Government introduced the "Influenza Vaccination Subsidy Scheme" (IVSS) for the first time in November 2008 to provide subsidy for those children aged between 6 months and below 6 years who were not under GVP, to receive seasonal influenza vaccination in private doctors' clinics. Last year, over 103 000 children received vaccination under IVSS. The Administration will continue to introduce the "Childhood Influenza Vaccination Subsidy Scheme" (CIVSS) this year. A government subsidy of \$80 per dose will be provided under the scheme for eligible children. CIVSS has started since 19 October, and will last until 31 March 2010. As at 31 October, about 13 000 children have received seasonal influenza vaccination under CIVSS. Private medical doctors who enrolled in CIVSS have to display the scheme logo at their clinics. The CIVSS logo and mini-poster are at **Annex II**.

(B) Childhood Pneumococcal Vaccination Programme

11. In order to lower the risk of getting pneumococcal infection, the

Government has incorporated pneumococcal conjugate vaccine into the “Childhood Immunisation Programme” since 1 September 2009. All newborns born on or after 1 July 2009 can receive free pneumococcal vaccination at MCHCs.

12. At the same time, the Government has launched a one-off catch-up programme for children born between 1 September 2007 and 30 June 2009 to receive free pneumococcal vaccination. The catch-up programme will last till 31 March 2011. As at 31 October, over 51 000 children had received pneumococcal vaccination under the catch-up programme.

Publicity Arrangement

13. DH has started a series of publicity arrangements to promote the pneumococcal vaccination programme, CIVSS and EVSS through dissemination of leaflets, broadcast of TV and radio Announcement of Public Interest, etc. Details about the vaccination schemes have also been uploaded onto the website of the Centre for Health Protection (www.chp.gov.hk). In addition, DH has set up a hotline (2125 2125) to answer public enquiries. The FHB had briefed the Chairmen and Vice Chairmen of the District Councils as well as the Elderly Commission on the implementation details of the vaccination schemes. Meanwhile, DH has been arranging briefings for individual District Councils to promote the vaccination schemes.

Advice Sought

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

Food and Health Bureau
Department of Health
November 2009

Logo of Elderly Vaccination Subsidy Scheme



Elderly Vaccination Subsidy Scheme Mini-poster

長者疫苗資助計劃
Elderly Vaccination Subsidy Scheme

今年65歲或以上香港居民
Hong Kong Residents aged 65 or above this year

疫苗 Vaccine	政府資助 Government Subsidy		診所收費 Clinic Charge
	疫苗 Vaccine	注射費 Injection Fee	
季節性流感 Seasonal Influenza 19.10.2009-31.3.2010	\$80	\$50	\$
肺炎球菌 Pneumococcal 19.10.2009起 onwards	\$140	\$50	\$
同時接種上述兩種疫苗須付 Payment for both vaccines received at the same consultation			\$

帶備有效香港身分證或豁免登記證明書
Bring along valid Hong Kong Identity Card or Certificate of Exemption

下列人士可參加由政府提供的防疫注射計劃免費接種疫苗：
1. 65歲或以上有長期病患而在公營門診覆診的長者
2. 65歲或以上領取綜援的長者
詳情請致電醫院管理局(2300 6555)或衛生署(2575 2789)查詢。
The following persons can receive free vaccinations provided by the Government:
1. Elderly persons aged 65 or above with chronic illness being followed up in public clinics
2. Those aged 65 or above receiving Comprehensive Social Security Assistance
For more information, please call Hospital Authority (2300 6555) or the Department of Health (2575 2789).

www.chp.gov.hk
查詢電話
Enquiry Number
2125 2125

衛生署
Department of Health

Logo of Childhood Influenza Vaccination Subsidy Scheme



Childhood Influenza Vaccination Subsidy Scheme
Mini-poster

兒童流感疫苗資助計劃
Childhood Influenza Vaccination Subsidy Scheme

注射當日年齡介乎六個月至未滿六歲的兒童
Children between the age of 6 months and less than 6 years on the injection day

政府資助 Government Subsidy :	\$80
診所收費 Clinic Charge :	\$

帶備子女的有效香港居民身分證明文件
Bring along the child's valid identity document showing Hong Kong resident status

帶子女到醫生診所接種疫苗，請先填妥使用疫苗資助同意書。(表格可於參與計劃的醫生診所索取或在「衛生防護中心」網站 www.chp.gov.hk 下載。)
Please fill in the Consent to Use Vaccination Subsidy before taking the child to the doctor's clinic. (The form is available at enrolled doctors' clinic or by downloading from CHP website www.chp.gov.hk).

來自綜援計劃家庭及年齡為六個月至未滿六歲的兒童，可參加由政府提供的防疫注射計劃免費接種流感疫苗。詳情請致電醫院管理局 (2300 6555) 或衛生署 (2575 2789) 查詢。
Children from families receiving Comprehensive Social Security Assistance and aged between 6 months and less than 6 years can receive free influenza vaccination provided by the Government. For more information, please call Hospital Authority (2300 6555) or the Department of Health (2575 2789).

www.chp.gov.hk
查詢電話 Enquiry Number
2125 2125

衛生署
Department of Health