



LC Paper No. CB(2)831/18-19(01)

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

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14 February 2019

Clerk to Panel on Health Services
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central, Hong Kong
(Attn.: Miss Kay Chu)

Dear Miss Chu,

Panel on Health Services
Follow-up to the Meeting on 19 November 2018
Agenda Item IV: Preparation for Winter Surge

Thank you for your letter of 30 November 2018 addressed to the Secretary for Food and Health. Our response to the proposal submitted by the Society for Community Organization (i.e. LC Paper No. CB(2)264/18-19(01)) is at **Annex**.

Yours sincerely,

(Ms Belle Mok)

for Secretary for Food and Health

Encl.

c.c.

Director of Health (Attn.: Dr Liza To)

Secretary for Food and Health's Office (Attn.: Ms Eppie Cheng)

**Government's Response to the Proposal Submitted by
the Society for Community Organization**

The Scientific Committee on Vaccine Preventable Diseases ("Scientific Committee") under the Centre for Health Protection of the Department of Health ("DH") regularly examines local epidemiological data, latest scientific evidence and overseas experiences and reviews the recommendations on priority groups for seasonal influenza vaccine. Every year, the Government takes into consideration the expert opinion from the Scientific Committee, practice of overseas health authorities, other public health factors and the affordability of persons receiving vaccinations to consider the scope of eligible groups under the Government Vaccination Programme ("GVP") (free vaccination) and Vaccination Subsidy Scheme ("VSS") (subsidised vaccination).

2. To increase coverage of seasonal influenza vaccination ("SIV") in school children, the Government launched the School Outreach Vaccination Pilot Programme ("Pilot Programme") and the Enhanced Outreach Vaccination under Vaccination Subsidy Scheme ("Enhanced VSS") in 2018/19 school year, with a view to providing free SIV to school children at schools. Apart from 184 primary schools under the Pilot Programme, 218 primary schools and 177 kindergartens/child care centres have participated in the Outreach Vaccination under Vaccination Subsidy Scheme (including Enhanced VSS). As at 10 February 2019, the Government has administered around 233 000 doses of SIV for the two outreach programmes. A total of around 370 000 doses had been administered for children aged between 6 months and less than 12 under GVP, VSS (including the Enhanced VSS) and the Pilot Programme, representing an increase of around 201 000 doses (i.e. 120 %) when compared with that of the same period in the 2017/18 season.

3. The Pilot Programme was first implemented in 2018/19 school year. The DH will review relevant experience and consider a number of factors, including logistics and human resources, preferences of schools and views from working partners, in drawing up the arrangements of SIV outreach service at schools for school children in the coming year.

4. Those who have not received free vaccination at schools but are eligible under the VSS may receive subsidised vaccination at the clinics of VSS enrolled private doctors. Enrolled doctors should display the designated logo near the entrance of their clinics and a pricing poster in the clinics showing their service fees. Some clinics provide vaccination to eligible persons free of charge. The list of enrolled doctors and their service fees after deducting the government subsidy has been uploaded onto the eHealth System: apps.hcv.gov.hk/SDIR/EN (Select "Lists of Enrolled Healthcare Service Providers" > Choose "Seasonal influenza vaccine (SIV)" and check relevant district > Click "Search". Items showing "\$0" means that the respective clinic provides vaccination to eligible persons free of charge).