



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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8 February 2019

Ms Maisie Lam
Clerk to Panel on Health Services
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central, Hong Kong

Dear Ms Lam,

**Panel on Health Services
Pertussis Vaccination for Pregnant Women**

Thank you for your letter dated 11 January 2019. Regarding the captioned issue raised by Dr Hon Elizabeth Quat, our response is set out at **Annex**.

Yours sincerely,

(Ms Belle Mok)
for Secretary for Food and Health

c.c.
Director of Health (Attn.: Dr Albert Au)

**Government's Response to the Issue on
Pertussis Vaccination for Pregnant Women**

Currently, acellular pertussis-containing vaccines are extensively used in childhood immunisation programmes in many developed countries and regions (including the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region) to replace the whole-cell vaccines which are more commonly associated with adverse events. Despite high vaccine uptake rate, there has been a resurgence of pertussis in recent years in a number of countries (such as the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, Japan, etc.), predominantly among infants aged under one and adolescents. The rise may be partially contributed by a wider use of improved diagnostics, including the highly sensitive polymerase chain reaction, for diagnosis of pertussis.

2. The Scientific Committee on Vaccine Preventable Diseases ("SCVPD") under the Centre for Health Protection ("CHP") of the Department of Health ("DH") has earlier discussed the issue of pertussis vaccination for pregnant women. After reviewing the local epidemiology of pertussis, recommendations of the World Health Organization and health authorities in other countries/regions, relevant scientific evidence, overseas experiences, etc., the SCVPD recommended pertussis vaccination for pregnant women during pregnancy. In line with established practice, the SCVPD is preparing the detailed recommendations and the finalised Consensus Statement will be uploaded to the CHP website for reference by healthcare professionals. In view of the recommendations of the SCVPD, the DH has been actively planning the implementation of the recommendations, details of which will be announced when available.