



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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電話號碼 Tel. No.: 3509 8958
傳真號碼 Fax No.: 2102 2433

21 April 2020

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

Dear Ms Lam,

**Panel on Health Services
Follow-up to the meeting on 8 November 2019**

During the discussion on preparation for winter surge at the meeting of the Legislative Council Panel on Health Services held on 8 November 2019, Members requested that supplementary information be provided. Having consulted the Hospital Authority (“HA”), we provide the information as follows.

(a) Additional healthcare manpower in HA in 2019-20

2. In order to meet the increasing demand for public healthcare services arising from the growing and ageing population, HA has increased its healthcare manpower in 2019-20, including 251 doctors, 1 527 nurses and 290 allied health professionals (as of 31 December 2019). The additional manpower was deployed to cope with the overall service and operational needs in HA, and to tackle the surge in service demand during the winter influenza season.

(b) Supporting staff in HA

3. Apart from increasing the manpower of doctors, nurses and allied health professionals, HA has also increased 1 756 supporting staff in 2019-20 (as of

31 December 2019). Besides, HA has reserved respective resources for engaging agency supporting staff and enhancing arrangements of Special Honorarium Scheme to augment the manpower of existing supporting staff.

(c) Promotion of seasonal influenza vaccination (“SIV”) for children

4. Since October 2019, publicity campaigns targeting at parents through various channels, for example, parenting magazines/websites, newspapers, advertisement in public transport, have been conducted to promote SIV for prevention of seasonal influenza among children.

(d) Provision of free or subsidised SIV to Hong Kong residents aged 50 to under 65 years old and holders of valid visa/entry permit who work in Hong Kong

5. Every year, the Government will make reference to recommendations from the relevant Scientific Committee, practices of overseas health authorities, other public health factors and the affordability of people receiving vaccination, etc, in order to decide the eligible groups of the Government Vaccination Programme (“GVP”) and the Vaccination Subsidy Scheme (“VSS”) and consider whether there is a need to expand the target groups of relevant programme/scheme. For example, the Government has already expanded the eligible groups of the VSS to cover people aged between 50 and 64 from 2018/19 onwards.

6. Those who are eligible under the VSS may receive subsidised vaccination at the clinics of VSS enrolled private doctors. Some clinics provide vaccination to eligible persons free of charge. The list of enrolled doctors and their service fees after deducting the government subsidy have been uploaded onto the eHealth System (<https://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 “Free” mean that the respective clinic provides vaccination to eligible persons free of charge).

7. Holders of valid visa/entry permit who are permitted to stay in Hong Kong for 180 days or more are required by law to obtain Hong Kong Identity Cards (“HKIC”). Holders of HKIC who are also the eligible groups of the GVP and VSS can receive free or subsidised SIV.

8. In addition, persons working in the following sectors may also receive free SIV under GVP through the arrangement of the respective organisations: (1) healthcare workers of the Department of Health, HA, residential care homes for the elderly, residential care homes for the disabled, residential child care centres or other government departments; (2) poultry workers or workers who

may be involved in poultry-culling operations; and (3) pig farmers or pig-slaughtering industry personnel.

(e) Meetings arranged by HA Head Office (“HAHO”)

9. HA is a large organisation, managing 43 hospitals and institutions, 49 Specialist Outpatient Clinics and 73 General Outpatient Clinics. Due to the primary role of HAHO in policy and strategic planning, coordination and support for the delivery of frontline healthcare services by seven hospital clusters, a wide range of meetings are steered by HAHO and held in the HA Building. The various types of meetings include Coordinating Committees/Central Committees and Service Management Meetings involving cluster or hospital representatives for discussion of issues concerning clinical specialties, grades, or services; meetings involving mainly executives and administrators for discussion of administration, human resources, supporting services or other subject matters; and meetings of Staff Group Consultative Committees which involve representatives from respective staff groups, etc. In respect of corporate governance, the HA Board and its committees also convene regular meetings which are mainly attended by senior executives without the involvement of frontline staff. Owing to the wide range of meetings arranged by HAHO, information about the total number of meetings held in HA Building in January to March 2019 is not available.

10. HA would remain vigilant on any practicable scope for further streamlining measures with a view to enhancing efficiency in its governance pathway. HA will continue to modernise the operation mode of clinical committees for optimising efficiency and effectiveness. Where practicable, web conferencing would be arranged in meetings to facilitate participation by clinical staff. In view of the pressure faced by frontline clinical staff, HAHO and management of clusters and hospitals have made arrangements to reschedule some of the meetings, where practicable, during the winter surge periods.

Yours sincerely,



(Clarissa WAN)

for Secretary for Food and Health

c.c. Chief Executive, Hospital Authority
(Attn.: Ms Dorothy Lam)