

立法會

Legislative Council

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Panel on Public Service

Meeting on 20 September 2021

Background brief on the vaccination of government employees

Purpose

This paper provides background information on the Coronavirus Disease 2019 ("COVID-19") vaccination of government employees and gives a brief account of the past discussion of the Panel on Public Service ("the Panel") on the matter.

Background

2. The Government strongly encourages government employees to get vaccinated to safeguard their health and that of the people they serve, as well as to fulfill their civic obligations. They will be entitled to a day of vaccination leave or be allowed to apply for one day of authorized absence for each vaccination dose received on or before 30 September 2021.

3. With effect from 2 August 2021, all government employees have been subjected to vaccination in lieu of regular testing arrangement.¹ Starting from 1 September 2021, save for those who are unfit to receive the COVID-19 vaccination because of medical conditions supported by a medical certificate, all government employees who have not received their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine should take the regular polymerase chain reaction-based nucleic acid tests for COVID-19 at Community Testing Centres outside working hours and pay for these tests at their own expense.

¹ The vaccination in lieu of regular testing arrangement has been implemented for frontline government employees since 31 May 2021. The first phase covered frontline government employees who are regularly involved in enforcement, inspection and investigation duties and have frequent and close contact with members of the public, or are involved in high risk duties. This arrangement has been expanded to cover all government employees since 2 August 2021.

4. As at 31 August 2021, 91% of civil servants have received their first dose of COVID-19 vaccination.

Discussions at the Panel

5. At the Panel meeting on 17 May 2021, members enquired whether the Administration would provide outreach COVID-19 vaccination service to individual Bureaux/Departments ("B/Ds") to facilitate government employees to get vaccinated, and whether the Administration would consider allowing government employees to get vaccinated together with their family members at the vaccination centre set up at the Central Government Offices.

6. The Administration stressed that government employees were strongly encouraged to receive vaccination to safeguard their health and that of their family members or the people being served. It had requested B/Ds to arrange testing for frontline staff engaged in high-risk duties on a sentinel basis. It would also strengthen the testing for target groups and encourage specific group of frontline government employees to receive vaccination in lieu of the regular testing. Government employees were allowed to get vaccinated during duty hours without taking leave.

7. As regards vaccination centres, the Administration explained that their locations were convenient to both the public and government employees. The vaccination centre set up at the Central Government Offices was open to government employees working in the building or the vicinity. The Administration would provide outreach vaccination service to various sectors and industries, and consider the feasibility of extending the service to individual B/Ds if necessary.

8. There was a suggestion that civil servants, staff of the Hospital Authority, school staff and social welfare organizations' employees should take the lead to get vaccinated so as to encourage the general public to get vaccinated. The Administration emphasized that it was the obligation of all government employees to proactively receive vaccination. It had provided facilitation to colleagues receiving vaccination. It was understood that staff of the Hospital Authority could receive vaccination at the centres set up at the hospitals they worked in.

Relevant questions raised at Council meetings

9. In the Council meetings of 2021, Members raised a number of questions on matters relating to the vaccination of government employees. The hyperlinks to the questions and the Administration's responses are in the **Appendix**.

Latest position

10. The Administration will provide members with information on the vaccination of government and key public service sector employees at the Panel meeting on 20 September 2021.

Relevant papers

11. A list of relevant papers is set out in the Appendix.

Council Business Division 4
Legislative Council Secretariat
13 September 2021

Vaccination of government employees

List of relevant papers

Meeting	Date of meeting	Paper
Panel on Public Service	17 May 2021 (Item IV)	Administration's paper Minutes
Council Meeting	2 June 2021	Question raised by Hon Paul TSE on "Coronavirus disease 2019 vaccines"
	9 June 2021	Question raised by Hon YUNG Hoi-yan on "Encouraging members of public to receive vaccination"
	7 July 2021	Question raised by Hon CHIANG Lai-wan on "Encouraging members of public to get vaccinated"
		Question raised by Hon Pierre CHAN on "COVID-19 Vaccination Programme"
	25 August 2021	Question raised by Hon CHENG Chung-tai on "Vaccination against Coronavirus Disease 2019"