

本署檔號 Our Ref. : (30) in DH SEB CD/8/27/6/1
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16 October 2007

Dear Doctor,

Influenza Vaccination for the 2007/08 Season

I refer to my previous letter dated 30 May 2007 on the updated recommendations of the Scientific Committee on Vaccine Preventable Diseases (SCVPD) for the coming influenza season (2007/08). The SCVPD recommends the following target groups of people to receive influenza vaccination for the coming influenza season, which is the same as that of the last year:

- (A) Elderly persons living in residential care homes
- (B) Long-stay residents of institutions for the disabled
- (C) Elderly persons aged 65 years or above
- (D) Persons with chronic illnesses
- (E) Health care workers
- (F) Poultry workers
- (G) Children aged 6 to 23 months
- (H) All pregnant women

The SCVPD also advises other members of the public to consult their doctors for the need for vaccination for personal protection and/or reducing the risk of transmitting influenza to high risk persons with whom they regularly come into contact. Details of the SCVPD's recommendation can be accessed at <http://www.chp.gov.hk>.

It takes the private and public sectors to work together to implement recommendations of the SCVPD. Similar to last year, the government will provide influenza vaccination to a subset of the above target groups, such as recipients of Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (please refer to the attached document or visit the website of CHP at <http://www.chp.gov.hk> for more information on the scope of coverage by the Government Influenza Vaccination Programme).

Enclosed please find a poster on influenza vaccination and you are welcome to collect free copies of Adult Immunisation Cards, posters and pamphlets from the offices of the Central Health Education Unit, by completing and fax the enclosed reply slip in advance.



Besides vaccinating your patients, please be reminded to give yourself and your health care staff influenza vaccine. This will reduce the risk of transmitting influenza to your patients particularly those who are at high risk of developing complications from influenza.

Finally, the following health advice for influenza is pertinent besides vaccination:

- To build up good body immunity by having a proper diet, regular exercise and adequate rest, reducing stress and avoiding smoking;
- To maintain good personal hygiene, and wash hands after sneezing, coughing or cleaning nose; and
- To wear a mask if having symptoms of respiratory infection.

Yours sincerely,



(Dr SK CHUANG)

Consultant Community Medicine (Communicable Disease)
Centre for Health Protection

Encls.

**Influenza Vaccination Programme
2007/08**

Who to Receive the Vaccine and Where to Get It?

(This summary table is intended for public consumption to facilitate the public in obtaining vaccination from appropriate providers)

Many private doctors provide influenza vaccination service.

For quick and convenient service, clients may receive the vaccination from private doctors for a charge

Categories	Persons with free vaccination provided by the Government	Major Service Providers	Vaccination Period	Remarks
Persons living or working in personal care institutions	Residents of RCHEs & RCHDs	◆ DH outreaching team	◆ 5 November to 30 November 2007 ◆ Mop-up : 3 to 14 December 2007	◆ RCHs will be approached directly for logistical arrangements
	Health care workers of RCHEs & RCHDs	◆ DH outreaching team	◆ 5 November to 30 November 2007 ◆ Mop-up : 3 to 14 December 2007	◆ RCHs will be approached directly for logistical arrangements
Elderly persons aged 65 years or above living in the community	Community living persons aged 65 years or above with chronic illness* attending public clinics	◆ HA GOPCs ◆ HA SOPCs (for follow-up patients) ◆ DH EHCs, Chest Clinics for existing clients	◆ 5 November to 31 December 2007	

	Community living persons aged 65 years or above receiving CSSA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ HA GOPCs ◆ DH EHCs for existing clients 	◆ 5 November to 31 December 2007	
Persons with chronic illness	CSSA recipients aged below 65 years with chronic illness* attending public clinics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ HA GOPCs ◆ HA SOPCs (for follow-up patients) ◆ DH Chest Clinics for existing clients 	◆ 5 November to 31 December 2007	
	In-patients under HA : hospitalized patients (including paediatric patients) with chronic disease*, infirmary psycho-geriatric, mentally ill and mentally handicapped units/wards	◆ HA hospitals	◆ 5 November to 31 December 2007	◆ HA will arrange internal logistics
	Paediatric out-patients with chronic illness or on long-term aspirin*	◆ HA SOPCs	◆ 5 November to 31 December 2007	
Health Care Workers	Health care workers working in DH, HA or in the public service	◆ By the respective organisation	◆ Late October to 31 December 2007	◆ Through internal communication
Poultry Workers	Poultry workers or workers who may be involved in poultry-culling operations	◆ HA GOPCs	◆ 19 November to 31 December 2007	◆ Through internal communication
Children aged 6 to 23 months	Children aged 6 to 23 months from families receiving CSSA	◆ DH MCHCs	◆ 5 Nov 2007 to 31 December 2007	◆ Clients may contact the MCHCs for details
Pregnant women	Pregnant women receiving CSSA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ DH MCHCs for existing clients ◆ HA antenatal clinics (for follow-up patients) 	◆ 5 November to 31 December 2007	

Other categories and All others not under the purview of the Government's programme	◆ Private doctors	◆ Early 2008	

* **People with chronic illness** mainly refer to those who have chronic cardiovascular, pulmonary, metabolic or renal diseases, persons who are immunocompromised, or children and adolescents (aged 6 months to 18 years) on long-term aspirin therapy.

For other information about the influenza vaccination programme, please visit website: www.chp.gov.hk or call upon the **DH Health Education Hotline at 2833 0111**.

For further enquiries, you may also call upon the **DH Hotline at 2575 2789 during the period October to December 2007**; or the **HA Hotline at 2300 6555**.

Abbreviations:

CSSA: Comprehensive Social Security Assistance

DH : Department of Health

EHCs: Elderly Health Centres

GOPCs: General Outpatient Clinics

HA: Hospital Authority

MCHCs: Maternal & Child Health Centres

RCHs: Residential Care Homes

RCHDs: Residential Care Homes for the Disabled

RCHes: Residential Care Homes for the Elderly

SOPCs: Specialist Outpatient Clinics