

Dear parents,

**Circular on Survey of COVID-19 Vaccination Programme –
Vaccination Arrangement for School Students**

While wearing a mask and maintaining social distancing can help reduce the chances of getting infected with COVID-19 or spreading the virus to others, vaccination can provide more effective protection. The vaccine will work synergistically with the human immune system to prepare it to fight the virus if we are exposed to it. This will provide the best protection for us as well as our family members and friends against COVID-19.

Vaccination is important to protect children and adolescents against symptomatic COVID-19 disease, and is effective in protecting against severe disease and death from COVID-19 infection. Vaccination is also vital to reduce community transmission, as well as to enable children and adolescents to resume normal school and daily life as soon as possible.

The Government provides the following two types of COVID-19 vaccines, Sinovac CoronaVac vaccine (“Sinovac vaccine”) and Fosun/BioNTech vaccine (“BioNTech vaccine”), which are used for preventing COVID-19 caused by SARS-CoV-2 virus. The Scientific Committee on Vaccine Preventable Diseases and the Scientific Committee on Emerging and Zoonotic Diseases (JSC) under the Department of Health, Centre for Health Protection (CHP) joined by the Chief Executive's expert advisory panel (EAP) on 17 January published an update of the consensus interim recommendations on the use of COVID-19 vaccines in children in Hong Kong. The JSC-EAP has no objection to allowing the use of Sinovac in children aged 5 to 11 and the use of a fractional dose of the BioNTech vaccine for adults in children of that age group.

a) The Sinovac vaccine uses the inactivated virus technology (Vero cell) platform. The recommended schedule consists of 2 doses administered 28 days apart.

b) The BioNTech vaccine which uses the mRNA technology platform.

Adolescents between the ages of 12 and 17 who received one dose of the BioNTech vaccine 12 weeks prior can receive the second dose of the BioNTech vaccine. If they have special needs (such as leaving Hong Kong for further studies) and choose to receive earlier the second dose of the BioNTech vaccine after 21 days, they must bring the signed parent/ guardian's Consent Form on the day of vaccination and be accompanied by their parents/ guardians to a community vaccination centre for vaccination.

Children between the ages of 5 and 11: The JSC-EAP has no objection to allowing the use of a fractional dose of the BioNTech vaccine for adults in children aged 5 to 11. The recommended interval between the two doses of the fractional dose of BioNTech for adults is at least 12 weeks apart.

In addition, in response to expert advice, intramuscular injection of the BioNTech vaccine in the mid-anterolateral thigh is recommended for children/ adolescents. They may wear loose-fitting, easy-to-roll-up or any other suitable clothing to facilitate vaccination.

In light of the recommendations, the Government announced on 20 January that children aged 5 to 11 can receive the Sinovac vaccine from 21 January. As there is a special dilution procedure for children aged 5 to 11 to receive the BioNTech vaccine and that an interval of 12 weeks is required for children to receive the first and the second doses, the Government will set up three Children's Community Vaccination Centres (CCVCs) on Hong Kong Island, in Kowloon and in the New Territories for children aged 5 to 11 to receive the vaccine.

Students can receive the BioNTech vaccine or Sinovac vaccine by the following means. Before making an appointment for the COVID-19 vaccine, please note that there must be at least 14 days between the COVID-19 vaccine and other vaccines (including seasonal influenza vaccine).

1) Vaccination with the Sinovac vaccine for students aged between 5 and 17, or vaccination with the BioNTech vaccine for students aged between 12 and 17

a) Arrangement by schools

Students and participants (for example, parents and guardians) have to bring their original identity documents to receive vaccination. In the event that the identity document of a student does not contain any photograph of the student, such as a birth certificate, the student has to present his/ her school document (such as a school handbook), which has the student's photograph, to receive vaccination.

i) Vaccination Subsidy Scheme (VSS) school outreach (for Sinovac vaccination only)

For primary schools and kindergartens (including kindergartens cum child care centres), if the number of participants for each visit reaches 150 or above, VSS doctors can be arranged to provide a

COVID-19 school outreach vaccination service. For secondary schools, they may contact VSS doctors direct for arranging Sinovac vaccination.

ii) Community Vaccination Centre (CVC) through group bookings

Schools can make group bookings of 20 to 30 students accompanied by two teachers for vaccination with the BioNTech vaccine or Sinovac vaccine at a CVC with school bus service between the school and the CVC is arranged by the Government. Parents and guardians may accompany their children/wards to take the school bus to CVC to receive vaccination. They may also wait with the students outside the CVC at a designated time on the day of vaccination and then enter the CVC when the other students and the accompanying teachers arrive by school bus. Parents and guardians may help take care of students and get vaccinated.

iii) The Department of Health's designated Student Health Service Centre (SHSC) through group bookings (for Sinovac vaccination only)

Schools can each make group bookings of 20 to 30 students, accompanied by at least two teachers for vaccination of the Sinovac vaccine at five designated Department of Health SHSCs, namely Chai Wan, Lam Tin, Sha Tin, Tuen Mun and Western SHSCs in the morning (address can be found on the website: <https://www.studenthealth.gov.hk/english/centre/centre.html>). Vaccination service is only provided for primary and secondary students but parents/ guardians are welcome to accompany their children/ wards to the site.

iv) School outreach by COVID-19 Mobile Vaccination Station

Outreach vaccinations can be arranged at the school for students, school staff, parents and guardians using a COVID-19 Mobile Vaccination Station. For each visit there should be at least 150 persons and one type of vaccine (i.e. either Sinovac vaccine or BioNTech vaccine) will be administered. School staff, parents and guardians are welcome to receive vaccination together that day. The school is required to provide a name list of attending students, parents/ guardians and school staff when the request is made. If the outreach cannot be provided, vaccinations will be arranged for schools at CVCs, through group bookings as assigned. School staff as well as parents and guardians are welcome to receive vaccination that day.

b) Self-arrangement by parents/ guardians and students

i) Vaccination at CVC

Parents/guardians may also make their own booking direct through the COVID-19 Vaccination Programme website (<https://booking.covidvaccine.gov.hk/forms/index.jsp>). Persons aged under 18 must bring along the "Consent Form for COVID-19 Vaccination" completed by their parents/ guardians to the CVC for vaccination. Moreover, for children who are between 5 and 11 years old, apart from the Consent Form, they have to be accompanied by an adult family member to receive vaccination. If your child does not have a Hong Kong identity card or birth certificate, please arrange vaccination other than through on-line booking. For related information you may make reference to the COVID-19 Vaccination Programme <https://www.covidvaccine.gov.hk/en/programme>.

Students who are immunocompromised must bring along the signed parent/ guardian's Consent Form as well as a medical certificate, and be accompanied by their parents/ guardians to a community vaccination centre on the day of vaccination so that they can receive the third dose four weeks after their second dose.

ii) Designated SHSC of the Department of Health (for Sinovac vaccination for primary and secondary school students only)

From 2 December 2021, five Department of Health SHSCs (Chai Wan, Lam Tin, Sha Tin, Tuen Mun and Western SHSCs) provide Sinovac vaccine to students aged 12 to 17 from 9am to 12:30pm and 2pm to 5:30pm from Monday to Friday (except public holidays), and deliver health education on COVID-19 vaccines to parents and students. Starting from 21 January 2022, the Sinovac vaccine vaccination service provided by these five SHSC extends to cover students aged 5 to 17. Parents can call the Student Health Service at 2856 9133 during service hours from 9am to 1pm and 2pm to 6pm from Monday to Friday (except public holidays) for appointment booking. (Addresses of these five SHSC are at: <https://www.studenthealth.gov.hk/english/centre/centre.html>)

iii) Sinovac vaccination at private doctors' clinics

Please contact participating private doctors (more than a thousand at present) (<https://www.covidvaccine.gov.hk/en/VSS>) for making appointment for Sinovac vaccination.

iv) Provision of BioNTech vaccination at private healthcare institutions - Pilot Scheme

Students and parents/ guardians may receive BioNTech vaccination for free at participating private healthcare institutions under the Pilot Scheme (the contact details of enrolled private healthcare institutions is at https://www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/list_vssdr_covid_bnt_pilot_eng.pdf). Students and

parents/ guardians may make appointments with the relevant private healthcare institutions direct without going through the Government's website.

II) Vaccination with BioNTech vaccine for students aged between 5 and 11

i) CCVC through group bookings made by schools (for BioNTech vaccination)

Time slots will be pre-arranged for your school through group bookings of 20 to 30 persons each at CCVCs and several time slots may be reserved. The vaccination is limited to children between 5 and 11 years old, but a parent/ guardian is welcome to accompany their children/ wards to the centre.

ii) Self-arrangement by parents/ guardians and students

Starting from 9 February parents and guardians can also make their own bookings for their children/ wards at CCVCs directly through the COVID-19 Vaccination Programme website (<https://booking.covidvaccine.gov.hk/forms/index.jsp>). Children who are between 5 and 11 years old, in addition to providing the Consent Form, have to be accompanied by an adult family member to receive vaccination. These Children Community Vaccination Centres only provide vaccination service to children aged between 5 and 11. If your child does not have a Hong Kong identity card or birth certificate, please arrange vaccination other than through on-line booking. For related information you may make reference to the COVID-19 Vaccination Programme (<https://www.covidvaccine.gov.hk/en/programme>).

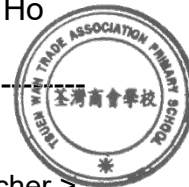
In order to facilitate the vaccination arrangement, we will first request confirmation of parents' intentions. Please return the reply slip on or before 6 February 2022.

For enquiries, please contact Mr. Wong Wai Kit.

Yours faithfully,

Chow Kim Ho

Chow Kim Ho
Principal



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Tsuen Wan Trade Association Primary School
Reply Slip of Circular 21-083/H04< Return it to Mr. Wong Wai Kit via the class teacher >

**Circular on Survey of COVID-19 Vaccination Programme –
Vaccination Arrangement for School Students**

Dear Principal,

I acknowledge receipt of the above circular regarding Survey of COVID-19 Vaccination Programme – Vaccination Arrangement for School Students.

- * I arrange my child to participate in this programme by myself.
 allow my child to participate in this programme through the school, and select
 Sinovac vaccine. (We will organise school outreach vaccination activity or group bookings based on the number of students joined.)
 BioNTech vaccine. (We will organise group bookings based on the number of students joined.)
 do not allow my child to participate in this programme.

Student's Name: _____ ()

Class: _____

Parent's Signature: _____

Date: _____

* Please put a '✓' in the appropriate box.