

本署檔號 Our Ref. : (58) in DH CDB/8/62/1 Pt.1

24 May 2024

Dear Principal/Person-in-charge,

**Be vigilant against vaccine preventable diseases**

We would like to take this opportunity to urge you to keep vigilant against vaccine preventable diseases (such as measles and pertussis) at schools; and to remind parents to keep vaccinations of their children up-to-date to protect themselves against these infectious diseases.

The global immunisation coverage rates have dropped since the COVID-19 pandemic and many countries worldwide are facing a resurgence of measles and pertussis outbreaks. In Hong Kong, an increase in the number of measles and pertussis cases is also observed. According to the latest local surveillance data (as of 23 May 2024), 8 measles cases and 28 pertussis cases are recorded, exceeding the total number of cases, i.e. 3 cases and 15 cases respectively, recorded in whole year of 2023.

Vaccination is the most effective way to prevent measles, pertussis as well as other vaccine preventable diseases (such as chickenpox and pneumococcal diseases). In this regard, we would like to enlist your help to remind parents to maintain up-to-date immunisation for their children for timely and comprehensive protection as delay in vaccination will weaken the protection for the children against relevant infectious diseases. The vaccination schedule under the Hong Kong Childhood Immunisation Programme can be found at the following website: [https://www.fhs.gov.hk/english/main\\_ser/child\\_health/child\\_health\\_recommend.html](https://www.fhs.gov.hk/english/main_ser/child_health/child_health_recommend.html).

To prevent outbreaks of measles, pertussis and other respiratory infections, students/children who develop skin rash, fever and acute respiratory symptoms are strongly advised not to attend school and should seek medical advice. For practical information on infection prevention measures, please refer to the “Guidelines on Prevention of Communicable Diseases in Schools/Kindergartens /Kindergartens-cum-Child Care Centres/Child Care Centres”, which is accessible on the website of the Centre for Health Protection (CHP) at:



[https://www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/guidelines\\_on\\_prevention\\_of\\_communicable\\_diseases\\_in\\_schools\\_kindergartens\\_kindergartens\\_cum\\_child\\_care-centres\\_child\\_are\\_centres.pdf](https://www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/guidelines_on_prevention_of_communicable_diseases_in_schools_kindergartens_kindergartens_cum_child_care-centres_child_are_centres.pdf)

If you suspect any outbreaks occurring in your institution, please report to the Central Notification Office of the CHP as early as possible for prompt epidemiological investigations (Tel: 2477 2772; Fax: 2477 2770; Email: [diseases@dh.gov.hk](mailto:diseases@dh.gov.hk)). The CHP will give advice on the management of the cases and take appropriate control measures.

For the more information on vaccine preventable diseases, please visit the CHP's webpages below:

- Measles (<https://www.chp.gov.hk/en/features/100419.html>)
- Pertussis (<https://www.chp.gov.hk/en/features/101463.html>)
- Chickenpox (<https://www.chp.gov.hk/en/healthtopics/content/24/15.html>)
- Pneumococcal diseases (<https://www.chp.gov.hk/en/healthtopics/content/24/10584.html>)

May I take this opportunity to thank you for your continuous support in combating infectious diseases in Hong Kong.

Yours faithfully,



(Dr. SK CHUANG)  
for Controller, Centre for Health Protection  
Department of Health