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Dear Parents / Guardians,

Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination catch-up programme

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP), Department of Health is reaching out to you concerning the one-off Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination catch-up programme, which is crucial in protecting your girl's health now and in the future.

Cervical cancer is one of the top ten most common and deadly cancers among women in Hong Kong. Almost all cervical cancers are caused by persistent infection with high-risk types of HPV. The HPV vaccine is safe, effective and offers long-lasting protection against the high-risk HPV types that most commonly cause cervical cancer. Researches showed that getting the HPV vaccine does not make children more likely to be sexually active or start having sex at a younger age. HPV vaccination has been providing to Primary 5 and Primary 6 school girls as part of the Hong Kong Childhood Immunisation Programme (HKCIP) since the 2019/2020 school year.

The World Health Organization recommended that girls should receive the HPV vaccine before their sexual debut and, in year 2022, further recommended to provide HPV catch-up vaccination to girls aged between 9 and 18. Subsequently, the Scientific Committee on Vaccine Preventable Diseases under the CHP recommended the Government to provide catch-up HPV vaccination for secondary school female students or older age girls up to 18 years. Hence, the Government launched a one-off HPV Vaccination Catch-up Programme (the Programme) by phases starting from 2 December 2024, for female Hong Kong residents born between 2004 and 2008, and have not been covered by the HKCIP (i.e. girls aged 18 or below as in 2022, and not being covered by existing programme) to receive free HPV catch-up vaccination. The Programme will last for two years.

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The first phase of the Programme starts with local secondary schools/special schools and targeted recipients are female students studying Secondary 5 and above. HPV catch-up vaccination is provided by school outreach, which is the most convenient way for your daughters to receive the HPV vaccine. Schools will engage public-private vaccination team, with the assistance of CHP, to provide HPV vaccination at school. Eligible person can receive two-dose HPV vaccination free of charge while immunocompromised persons have to receive three doses. Since this is a one-off catch-up programme, eligible girls who do not join this programme may need to get vaccination at private clinics later which may worth more than \$1,200 per dose.

We would like to appeal for your support and consent of your daughters to receive HPV vaccinations. You can visit the following webpage for more information about HPV vaccine https://www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/hpvcatchup_leaflet.pdf. Meanwhile, CHP is organising a webinar about HPV vaccine for parents and information about the webinar will be available on the CHP website at <https://www.chp.gov.hk/en/features/108666.html>. We hope to provide you more information about the benefit of HPV vaccination and to address concerns of parents on vaccination in the webinar.

You may also visit the CHP thematic webpage <https://www.chp.gov.hk/en/features/108084.html> for more information. For the arrangement of the vaccination outreach activity under the catch-up programme of your girls' school, please contact the school direct. For question on HPV vaccine, please call CHP enquiry line during office hours at 2125 2125.

Leaflet



Webinar



CHP Thematic Webpage



Yours faithfully,



(Dr Darwin MAK)

for Controller, Centre for Health Protection