



中華人民共和國香港特別行政區政府總部食物及衛生局
Food and Health Bureau, Government Secretariat
The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
The People's Republic of China

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The Food and Health Bureau of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China presents its compliments to the Heads of Post of Consulates-General and Officially Recognised Bodies (“ORBs”) in Hong Kong, and has the honour to inform the latter of the latest vaccination requirements for inbound travellers as well as the recommendations on COVID-19 vaccination.

COVID-19 vaccination requirements for persons aged 12 to 17

Having considered the risk of the related side effect and benefit of Comirnaty vaccine in the local setting, the Scientific Committee on Vaccine Preventable Diseases and the Scientific Committee on Emerging and Zoonotic Diseases under the Centre for Health Protection of the Department of Health (“JSC”), joined by the Chief Executive's expert advisory panel (“EAP”), announced earlier an interim recommendation regarding COVID-19 vaccination and recommended persons aged 12 to 17 to receive one dose of Comirnaty vaccine for the time being.

Under the adjusted requirements, inbound travellers aged 12 to 17 on the scheduled day of arrival at Hong Kong who have received one dose of Comirnaty vaccine at least 14 days ago are deemed to have complied with the requirements of completing the COVID-19 vaccination course under boarding and quarantine requirements.

For Hong Kong residents aged 12 to 17 who hold a recognised vaccination record¹ of one dose of Comirnaty vaccine and have stayed in Group

¹ Recognised vaccination records include those issued by Hong Kong, Mainland or Macao authorities or an institution recognised by Mainland or Macao authorities, an authority or recognised institution of a country where its national regulatory authority is designated by the World Health Organization as a stringent regulatory authority, or a relevant authority or recognised institution of a country with which Hong Kong has reached a recognition agreement arrangement with its government.

A specified places on the day of boarding for Hong Kong or during the 21 days before that day, they are allowed to board flights for Hong Kong. On arrival at Hong Kong, they are still required to undergo 21-day compulsory quarantine in a Designated Quarantine Hotel (“DQH”), with compulsory testing on the 26th day of arrival at Hong Kong.

For both Hong Kong residents and non-Hong Kong residents aged 12 to 17 who hold a vaccination record of one dose of Comirnaty vaccine, if they have stayed in Group B specified places on the day of arrival at Hong Kong or during the 14 days before that day, they are required to undergo 14-day compulsory quarantine in a DQH and compulsory testing on the 16th and 19th days of arrival at Hong Kong. If they have only stayed in Group C specified places on the day of arrival at Hong Kong or during the 14 days before that day, they are required to undergo seven-day compulsory quarantine in a DQH and compulsory testing on the ninth, 12th, 16th and 19th days of arrival at Hong Kong.

Arrangements for persons who are unfit to receive the second dose of COVID-19 vaccine because of health reasons

For Hong Kong residents who have received one dose of recognised COVID-19 vaccine² and hold a recognised vaccination record¹, they are exceptionally allowed to board for Hong Kong from Group A specified places if they were certified by a medical practitioner that they were unfit to receive the second dose of COVID-19 vaccine because of health reasons after receiving the first dose of vaccine.

In addition to other requirements applicable to Group A specified places, these inbound travellers from Group A specified places are required to present at boarding the aforementioned certificate issued by a medical practitioner who is registered in Hong Kong or at the place where the vaccine was administered. Upon arrival at Hong Kong, they are still required to undergo 21-day compulsory quarantine in a DQH and compulsory testing on the 26th day of arrival at Hong Kong.

As for such relevant persons who arrive at Hong Kong from Group B or Group C specified places, they have to undergo compulsory quarantine and compulsory testing in accordance with requirements applicable to non-fully-

² That is, vaccines listed under the "List of COVID-19 Vaccines Recognised for Specified Purposes" (www.coronavirus.gov.hk/pdf/list_of_recognised_covid19_vaccines.pdf).

vaccinated persons. In other words, they have to undergo 21 or 14 days of compulsory quarantine in a DQH respectively, without any shortening of quarantine period.

The above adjustments **has come into effect from 29 October**. For details on the boarding, quarantine and testing requirements for relevant specified places, please refer to the Government's COVID-19 thematic website (www.coronavirus.gov.hk/eng/inbound-travel.html).

Consensus interim recommendations on COVID-19 vaccination

The JSC-EAP convened a meeting on 27 October to discuss interim recommendations related to the administration of a third dose of COVID-19 vaccine. For details, please refer to the Consensus Interim Recommendations on the Use of COVID-19 Vaccines in Hong Kong (as at 27 October 2021) appended at **Annex**.

The Government will continue to closely monitor both the local epidemic and global pandemic situation, and adjust anti-epidemic measures as appropriate. We appeal for your kind understanding and continued support of the Government's effort to combat the COVID-19 epidemic. For further enquiries, please contact Mr Simon CHEUNG (email: skycheung@fhb.gov.hk) of the Food and Health Bureau.

The Food and Health Bureau avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Heads of Post of Consulates-General and Officially Recognised Bodies in Hong Kong the assurance of its highest consideration.



Hong Kong, 29 October 2021

Heads of Post of Consulates-General and
Officially Recognised Bodies in Hong Kong



衛生防護中心

Centre for Health Protection

**Scientific Committee on Emerging and Zoonotic Diseases
and
Scientific Committee on Vaccine Preventable Diseases**

**Consensus Interim Recommendations on the Use of COVID-19
Vaccines in Hong Kong
(As of 27 October 2021)**

Introduction

On 27 October 2021, the Scientific Committee on Vaccine Preventable Diseases (SCVPD) and the Scientific Committee on Emerging and Zoonotic Diseases (SCEZD) under the Centre for Health Protection of the Department of Health (DH) (JSC) convened a meeting, joined by the Chief Executive's expert advisory panel (EAP), to discuss interim recommendations related to the administration of a third dose of COVID-19 vaccine and the co-administration of COVID-19 vaccine with other vaccines.

Administration of a third dose of COVID-19 vaccine

Immunocompromised individuals

2. The JSC-EAP recommended **three doses of COVID-19 vaccine (Comirnaty vaccine for ≥ 12 years of age and CoronaVac vaccine for ≥ 18 years of age) for the following immunocompromised patients¹:**



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The Centre for Health
Protection is a
professional arm of the
Department of Health for
disease prevention
and control

¹ WHO Interim recommendations for an extended primary series with an additional vaccine dose for COVID-19 vaccination in immunocompromised persons. 26 October 2021. Available at: <https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/347079/WHO-2019-nCoV-Vaccination-SAGE-recommendation-Immunocompromised-persons-2021.1-eng.pdf?sequence=2&isAllowed=y>

Group	Details
Active cancer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Active immunosuppressive treatment for solid tumour or haematological malignancy (including leukaemia, lymphoma, and myeloma), or within 12 months of ending such treatment
Transplant recipients	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Receipt of solid organ transplant and taking immunosuppressive therapy Receipt of stem cell transplant (within 2 years of transplantation, or taking immunosuppressive therapy)
Immunodeficiency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Severe primary immunodeficiency Chronic dialysis
HIV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HIV with a current CD4 cell count of <200 cells/μl, evidence of an opportunistic infection, not on HIV treatment, and/or with a detectable viral load (i.e. advanced HIV disease)
Immunosuppressives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Active treatment causing significant immunosuppression, including high-dose corticosteroids, alkylating agents, antimetabolites, transplant-related immunosuppressive drugs, cancer chemotherapeutic agents, tumour-necrosis factor (TNF) blockers, or other highly immunosuppressive drugs Immunosuppressive chemotherapy or radiotherapy within the past 6 months

3. The third dose should be administered at least four weeks from the second dose. For those who had received two doses of CoronaVac vaccine, a third dose of Comirnaty vaccine may elicit a better immune response than CoronaVac vaccine. Comirnaty vaccine offers greater protection but personal preference is respected.

Individuals receiving two doses of COVID-19 vaccine

4. For **individuals who had received two doses of CoronaVac vaccine**, an additional dose of COVID-19 vaccine is generally recommended. This is especially important for the following higher risk populations:

- Elderly ≥ 60 years old

- Healthcare workers
- Workers at increased risk for COVID-19 exposure and transmission because of occupational setting (personnel participating in anti-epidemic related work; personnel providing cross-boundary transportation or working at control points and ports)
- Persons with chronic illnesses

5. The third dose should be administered at least six months from the second dose. A third dose of Comirnaty vaccine may elicit a better immune response than CoronaVac vaccine. Comirnaty vaccine offers greater protection but personal preference is respected.

6. For **individuals aged ≥ 18 years old who had received two doses of Comirnaty vaccine**, an additional dose of Comirnaty vaccine is recommended to be administered at least six months from the second dose for the following higher risk populations:

- Elderly ≥ 60 years old
- Healthcare workers
- Workers at increased risk for COVID-19 exposure and transmission because of occupational setting (personnel participating in anti-epidemic related work; personnel providing cross-boundary transportation or working at control points and ports)
- Persons with chronic illnesses

Persons with previous COVID-19 infection

7. There is currently a lack of data on the administration of additional dose(s) in **individuals who are fully recovered from COVID-19**, they should discuss with their physician on whether two doses of COVID-19 vaccine are required after recovery, and an interval of six months between the two doses is recommended.

8. This recommendation supersedes the previous interim

recommendation on the administration of a third dose of COVID-19 vaccine for fully vaccinated persons issued on 15 September 2021, and previous recommendations on COVID-19 vaccination for persons with previous COVID-19 infection issued on 18 March 2021 and 6 May 2021.

Co-administration of COVID-19 vaccine with other vaccines

9. Given the local context, it is suggested to maintain the minimal interval of at least 14 days between the administration of COVID-19 vaccine (Comirnaty or CoronaVac) and any other vaccines including seasonal influenza vaccine.

10. There are circumstances when shortening the interval between the administration of COVID-19 vaccines and other vaccines are justified. These include:

- situations when there are increased risk of COVID-19 and other vaccine-preventable disease;
- when another vaccine is required for post-exposure prophylaxis, such as tetanus and rabies.

October 2021

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