

Government to extend opening hours of Children Community Vaccination Centres on weekends and public holidays

The Government will extend the opening hours of four Children Community Vaccination Centres (CCVCs) on Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays to between 8am and 8pm starting from this Saturday (April 23) and until May 15.

Parents or guardians can make reservations for their children aged 5 to 11 to receive BioNTech vaccination free of charge during the extended opening hours at the designated website for the COVID-19 Vaccination Programme (www.covidvaccine.gov.hk) starting from 9am tomorrow (April 21).

The CCVCs at Gleneagles Hospital Hong Kong, Hong Kong Children's Hospital, Yuen Chau Kok Sports Centre and Tsuen Wan Sports Centre will open as usual from 10am to 6pm daily on weekdays, while extending their opening hours to between 8am and 8pm on Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays until May 15. The CCVCs will be closed daily between 1.30pm and 2.30pm for cleaning.

The Secretary for the Civil Service, Mr Patrick Nip, said "We are sparing no effort in boosting the vaccination rates among children and the elderly. We hope that the extension of opening hours of CCVCs can assist parents to bring their children to receive vaccination during holidays. With serious and even fatal cases involving children being recorded during the fifth wave of the epidemic, parents or guardians should face squarely children's risk of serious illness and death from infection, and arrange COVID-19 vaccination for their children as soon as possible."

As the BioNTech vaccine for children requires a special dilution procedure, children aged 5 to 11 must receive the BioNTech vaccine at the four CCVCs. They must bring along a consent form of the following version signed by their parents on the date of vaccination (www.covidvaccine.gov.hk/pdf/Consent_Form_for_Fractional_BioNTech_Vaccination_ENG.pdf) and must be accompanied by their parents or guardians in person when receiving vaccination.

Persons have to bring along the original identity documents on the date of vaccination. If the identity documents do not bear the child's photo, such as the birth certificate, then school documents (such as school handbooks) bearing a photo of the student must be presented at the time of vaccination.

In addition, children aged 3 to 11 can also receive vaccination at Community Vaccination Centres, general out-patient clinics of the Hospital Authority, Student Health Service Centres of the Department of Health, private clinics and more where the Sinovac CoronaVac vaccine is provided. Parents or guardians are advised to make reservations at the designated website for their children aged 3 to 11 to receive the third dose of the

Sinovac vaccine three months after the children have received their second dose.