

Interim analytical results on suspected counterfeit vaccines announced

The Department of Health (DH) today (July 24) announced the interim analytical results on the suspected counterfeit vaccines seized during joint operations earlier this month. So far, the test results revealed that no hazardous impurities were detected in the samples.

â€‹ The DH and Hong Kong Customs earlier announced that joint operations were conducted at two medical centres on July 10 and July 12 respectively during which suspected counterfeit vaccines were seized in both premises. Samples of the seized products were sent to the Government Laboratory and accredited laboratories for analysis to identify the nature of the seizures and whether they contain hazardous ingredients.

Most of the results, including the tests for certain chemical and metallic impurities, particulate matters, and certain chemical markers, were available. So far, no hazardous impurities or particulate matters were detected. In addition, the results revealed that the samples did not contain the ingredients of human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine. The test results further revealed that samples seized from a medical centre in Kwun Tong contained sodium and chloride, which are commonly found in saline solution.

The results of the sterility test on the samples are still pending and expected to be available in mid-August. The results will be announced in due course.

Investigations by the DH and Customs are ongoing.

The DH urged members of the public who have felt unwell after receiving HPV vaccines to seek advice from healthcare professionals. Members of the public who have doubts on whether they should vaccinate or receive booster vaccines are advised to consult healthcare professionals. In addition, registered healthcare professionals should only procure registered pharmaceutical products from licensed wholesale dealers.