<u>Private medical organisations'</u> <u>concerted efforts to provide COVID-19</u> <u>vaccination service</u>

With the support from private medical organisations, starting from tomorrow (March 1), the Children Community Vaccination Centre (CCVC) at Yuen Chau Kok Sports Centre currently run by the Hospital Authority (HA) will be operated by the CUHK Medical Centre. The CCVC will continue to administer the BioNTech vaccine to children aged 5 to 11.

The Secretary for the Civil Service, Mr Patrick Nip, said, "The Government is in full throttle to let more healthcare personnel of private medical organisations to participate in the COVID-19 Vaccination Programme so as to allow the HA to free up more frontline staff to provide care to COVID-19 confirmed patients.

"As the BioNTech vaccine for children requires a special dilution procedure, two of the three CCVCs set up in mid-February were operated by the HA. After March 1, the operation of the CCVC at Yuen Chau Kok Sports Centre will be taken up by the CUHK Medical Centre. I am very grateful to the healthcare personnel from private medical organisations for their support to the COVID-19 Vaccination Programme and their concerted efforts to promote the vaccination drive."

Since the launch of the COVID-19 Vaccination Programme on February 26, 2021, almost six million persons have received their first vaccine dose as at 8pm today (February 28).

Mr Nip appeals to eligible members of the public to take prompt action and get their first, second and third dose of vaccine administered accordingly. "The current epidemic situation is of grave concern. We should never try our luck. We need active participation from every member of the public to boost the vaccination rate in concert so as to build a protective barrier in the community. Apart from protecting oneself, getting vaccinated can reduce the speed of the spread of the virus. It also serves as an indirect protection to our healthcare system," he added.

The designated website for the COVID-19 Vaccination Programme (<u>www.covidvaccine.gov.hk/en/programme</u>) provides the latest information including vaccination venues, reservation and enquiry hotlines.