

SCS appeals to residents of residential care homes for elderly to receive COVID-19 vaccination as soon as possible (with photos)

The Secretary for the Civil Service, Mr Patrick Nip, said today (October 28) that residents of residential care homes for the elderly (RCHEs) and nursing homes should receive COVID-19 vaccination as early as possible for self-protection. He also appealed to family members of these residents to truly understand the serious threat posed to the health of unvaccinated residents should there be an epidemic outbreak.

Accompanied by the Acting Deputy Director of Social Welfare (Services), Mr Tan Tick-ye, Mr Nip visited an RCHE in To Kwa Wan to view the administering of a COVID-19 vaccine to residents of the RCHE by visiting medical officers. Together with the residents who received vaccination yesterday (October 27), over 100 residents have been vaccinated at the RCHE yesterday and today.

The RCHE is one of the first batch participants of a vaccination scheme in which the Government took the initiative to make arrangements for unvaccinated residents of residential care homes (RCHs) to have health assessments by doctors. Upon confirmation that the residents are suitable for receiving the Sinovac vaccine, and that their family members do not clearly oppose vaccination, the Sinovac vaccine will be administered to residents by visiting medical officers under the informed consent of them or their legal guardians, so as to give early protection to them and other residents as well as staff of RCHs.

"More than 6.88 billion COVID-19 vaccine doses have been administered worldwide. Residents and their family members should learn about the importance and the efficacy of COVID-19 vaccination in an objective manner. In fact, the Joint Scientific Committees together with the expert advisory panel highly recommend elderly persons to receive COVID-19 vaccination, pointing out that all elderly persons who have previously received influenza vaccines can safely receive COVID-19 vaccines. Elderly persons or residents with chronic illnesses should receive COVID-19 vaccination as soon as possible as long as they are not suffering from acute illnesses," Mr Nip said.

"The analysis of confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Hong Kong shows that among the 137 cases involving residents of RCHEs, the mortality rate was up to 28 per cent. Getting vaccinated is the best method to safeguard our own health. Residents of RCHEs as well as their family members should be in support of receiving COVID-19 vaccination to reduce the risk of falling seriously ill and death should they get infected."

For information about the COVID-19 Vaccination Programme, please visit the designated website at www.covidvaccine.gov.hk.

