

SFH inspects BioNTech vaccination service at District Health Centres (with photos)

The Secretary for Food and Health, Professor Sophia Chan, visited Kwai Tsing District Health Centre (DHC) and Sham Shui Po DHC today (March 25) to learn more about the provision of BioNTech vaccination service at the two DHCs.

Professor Chan said, "With a view to enabling the public to get vaccinated as early as possible and boosting the vaccination rate further, the Government is sparing no effort to provide vaccination service at suitable venues to improve accessibility for the public. DHCs/DHC Expresses in various districts have all along been supporting the fight against the epidemic at the district level. The Kwai Tsing DHC provides BioNTech vaccination service to members of the public on a daily basis since February 28. As at March 21, 8 100 doses have been administered. Due to consistent demand, the vaccination service at Kwai Tsing DHC will be extended for eight weeks to May 22. Sham Shui Po DHC also commenced its BioNTech vaccination service from March 23. I appeal to people, especially the elderly, in these two districts to make the best use of the service and get vaccinated without delay."

Professor Chan was impressed by the anti-epidemic efforts of the two DHCs. Apart from the vaccination service, DHC staff disseminate COVID-19-related health information, distribute anti-epidemic kits and provide hotline support service to the public. Nurses at the DHCs also participate in the hotline service managed by the Hospital Authority serving people under home isolation. She expressed her heartfelt gratitude to all staff in the two DHCs for their support to the COVID-19 Vaccination Programme. She took the opportunity to talk to participating citizens and was glad to know that they were contented with the convenient vaccination service provided by the DHCs.

Kwai Tsing DHC is located on Level 30, Tower 2, Kowloon Commerce Centre, 51 Kwai Cheong Road, Kwai Chung, New Territories, while Sham Shui Po DHC is located at 201A, 2/F Mei Hei House, Shek Kip Mei Estate, Sham Shui Po, Kowloon. The two DHCs provide service from 9am to 6pm daily. Eligible persons aged 12 or above can make reservations for receiving the BioNTech vaccine at the two DHCs via the designated website of the COVID-19 Vaccination Programme (www.covidvaccine.gov.hk). There is no same-day ticket arrangement at the two DHCs.

Professor Chan called on members of the public who are not yet vaccinated, especially senior citizens, chronic patients and other immunocompromised persons who face a much higher chance of death after COVID-19 infection, to get vaccinated as early as possible for better protection to themselves and others. She also reminded the public that the

implementation of stage three Vaccine Pass will be advanced from the end of June to the end of May, and that members of the public who are eligible for a third dose should also get vaccinated as soon as possible.

"I appeal to parents to make arrangements for their children aged 3 or above to get vaccinated immediately in order to reduce their risk of serious illness or death in case of infection, while at the same time creating favourable conditions for students to return to school to have different learning activities," Professor Chan said.

The public can browse the designated website (www.covidvaccine.gov.hk) for information on vaccination venues, making appointments for vaccination and other details.

