

“Vaccine Pass” Arrangement of Specialist Out-patient Clinics (SOPCs)

To strengthen the immunity barrier for hospitals and public healthcare facilities against COVID-19, protect members of the public who utilise public healthcare services, especially senior citizens and chronic patients who face a higher risk of serious illness and death after COVID-19 infection, and further encourage members of the public to receive COVID-19 vaccination, the Government announced that starting from 13 June 2022, the “**Vaccine Pass**” arrangement will be implemented at SOPCs of the Hospital Authority (HA) through administrative methods.

Before entering the clinics, service users have to be compliant with the “**Vaccine Pass**” requirements, or present a negative result proof of polymerase chain reaction (PCR)-based nucleic acid test conducted within 48 hours before the visit. Visitors (including carers of service users) are required to comply with the “**Vaccine Pass**” requirements and cannot use a pre-visit test as an alternative arrangement. And the Government announced that starting from 9 August 2022, Red Code and Amber Code has been added into the “Vaccine Pass”.

For details on “**Vaccine Pass**”, , please visit the website "[COVID-19 Thematic Website](https://www.coronavirus.gov.hk/)".^{Note 1}

Q1	How could I meet the “Vaccine Pass” requirements?
A1	The “ Vaccine Pass ” requirements include having received the required dosage of COVID-19 vaccine, being recovered persons ^{Note 2} of COVID-19 in the Government's record, or certified by doctors for being unsuitable to receive vaccination, and holding the relevant vaccination record (including record of recovered person) or medical exemption certificate. For details of the “ Vaccine Pass ” schedule and dosage requirement, please refer to the COVID-19 Thematic Website: https://www.coronavirus.gov.hk/pdf/vp_t1_ENG.pdf
Q2	I have never been infected with COVID-19. If I have only received two doses of vaccine, does it mean that I have not yet met the “Vaccine Pass” requirements?
A2	If you have never been infected with COVID-19, and have received the 2 nd dose of vaccine within 6 months before entering the SOPCs, then you have met the “ Vaccine Pass ” requirements. On the contrary, if you enter the clinics 6 months after receiving the 2 nd dose of vaccine, you will have to receive the 3 rd dose in order to meet the “ Vaccine Pass ” requirements.
Q3	I was infected with COVID-19 and have recovered from the infection for less than 6 months. How many doses of vaccine do I have to receive in order to comply with the “Vaccine Pass” requirements?

Note 1 For details, please refer to COVID-19 Thematic Website

Vaccine Pass <https://www.coronavirus.gov.hk/eng/vaccine-pass.html>

Note 2 Recovery is defined as 14 days after the date of the most recent documented positive test result.

A3	If you were infected with COVID-19 and have recovered from the infection for less than 6 months when entering the SOPCs, you do not have to receive any further vaccine at this stage for compliance with the “ Vaccine Pass ” requirements, regardless of the number of doses of vaccine you have received.
Q4	I was infected with COVID-19. I have recovered from the infection for more than 6 months and I did not receive any COVID-19 vaccine before the infection. How many doses of vaccine do I have to receive in order to comply with the “Vaccine Pass” requirements?
A4	If you have recovered from COVID-19 for more than 6 months when entering the SOPCs and did not receive any COVID-19 vaccine before the infection, the “ Vaccine Pass ” requirements are as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. You have to have received the 1st dose of vaccine if the 1st dose is within 6 months when entering the SOPCs; or ii. You have to have received the 2nd dose of vaccine if the 1st dose is over 6 months when entering the SOPCs. (2 nd dose of vaccine is not required for persons aged 12-17 having taken Comirnaty (BioNTech) as 1 st dose.)
Q5	I was infected with COVID-19. I have recovered from the infection for more than 6 months and received one dose of COVID-19 vaccine before the infection. Do I have to receive additional vaccine in order to comply with the “Vaccine Pass” requirements?
A5	If you have recovered from COVID-19 infection for more than 6 months when entering the SOPCs and received one dose of COVID-19 vaccine before the infection, you have to receive the 2 nd dose in order to comply with the “ Vaccine Pass ” requirements. (2 nd dose of vaccine is not required for persons aged 12-17 having taken Comirnaty (BioNTech) as 1 st dose.)
Q6	I was infected with COVID-19, and I have received two doses of COVID-19 vaccine before infection. Do I still have to receive additional vaccines in order to comply with the “Vaccine Pass” requirements?
A6	If you were infected with COVID-19 and have received two doses of COVID-19 vaccine, you do not have to receive the 3 rd dose in order to comply with the “ Vaccine Pass ” requirements.
Q7	I am a service user of the SOPC. If I am not compliant with the “Vaccine Pass” requirements, can I present a same-day rapid antigen test result as a replacement?
A7	If you are a service user of the SOPC, you may present a negative result proof of a PCR-based nucleic acid test conducted with specimen collected within 48 hours before the visit in lieu of the “ Vaccine Pass ”. Rapid antigen test result is not accepted.
Q8	If I need to do a blood test or an electrocardiogram before the SOPC consultation appointment, do I still need to comply with the “Vaccine Pass” requirements?
A8	As long as the required procedures take place within the SOPC, you will need to comply with the “ Vaccine Pass ” requirements or present a negative result proof of a PCR-based nucleic acid test conducted with specimen collected within 48 hours before the SOPC visit.

Q9	If my children are under the age of 12, do they still need to comply with the “Vaccine Pass” requirements when entering the SOPCs?
A9	Considering children under the age of 12 are exempted from the “Vaccine Pass” at this stage, they are not required to comply with the related requirements.
Q10	If a family member/accompanying person (including adults and children) of the service user is going to visit the clinic but is not compliant with the “Vaccine Pass” requirements, can he/she present a negative result proof of a nucleic acid test as a replacement?
A10	If you are a carer of a service user of the SOPC/visitor of the SOPC, you are required to comply with the “Vaccine Pass” requirements in order to enter the SOPC and cannot use a pre-visit test as an alternative arrangement.
Q11	If my “Vaccine Pass” is displayed with an Amber Code, am I allowed to enter the SOPCs?
A11	<p>If you are a service user, and your “Vaccine Pass” is displayed with an Amber Code while you also <u>comply</u> with the “Vaccine Pass” requirements (i.e. your “Vaccine Pass” should be displayed with an Amber Code with blue frame), then you are allowed to enter the SOPCs.</p> <p>If you are a service user, and your “Vaccine Pass” is displayed with an Amber Code but you do <u>not comply</u> with the “Vaccine Pass” requirements (i.e. your “Vaccine Pass” should be displayed with an Amber Code with red frame), then you have to present a negative result proof of polymerase chain reaction (PCR)-based nucleic acid test conducted within 48 hours before the visit in order to enter the SOPCs.</p> <p>If you are a carer of a service user of the SOPC/visitor of the SOPC, and your “Vaccine Pass” is displayed with an Amber Code, then you are not allowed to enter the SOPCs regardless of whether you are compliant with the “Vaccine Pass” requirements or not (i.e. your “Vaccine Pass” is displayed with an Amber Code with red frame or blue frame),.</p>
Q12	If my “Vaccine Pass” is displayed with a Red Code, am I allowed to enter the SOPCs?
A12	If your “Vaccine Pass” is displayed with a Red Code, then you are not allowed to enter the SOPCs regardless of whether you are a service user, carer of a service user of the SOPC or visitor of the SOPC.

(12 August 2022)