

Seasonal Influenza Vaccination (SIV) 2019/20



Photo 1: Group photo of members of Quality and Safety Division promoting flu jab



Photo 2: Dr. KL Chung (Director of Q&S) receiving the seasonal influenza vaccine

Seasonal influenza vaccination (SIV) has begun since 9 October this year. Colleagues are encouraged to take flu jab and get prepared for winter surge. HA staff, including part-time, contract and temporary employees, may contact relevant wards or units in-charge or one of the 8 staff clinics to make an appointment for vaccination. **Act now!**

**You jab,
I jab!**



To debunk myths and misconception on the influenza vaccine, a new set of posters has been circulating and posted up for staff to read. Staff are welcome to scan the QR codes on the posters to gain more in-depth information regarding the concerns of the vaccine.



Stay Vigilant Against Measles Infections

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) has recently investigated a measles cluster affecting two customs officers who worked at the Lo Wu boundary control point (BCP). The two cases were reported on 10 and 11 October, respectively. Information about the two cases is summarized in table 1. To prevent possible spread of infection, the CHP has offered the measles mop-up vaccination and health talks to related workers of the Lo Wu BCP. So far the CHP has recorded a total of 87 measles infections this year (figure 1) – against 15 in all of 2018.

Healthcare workers (HCWs) in HA should stay vigilant against measles, in particular during patient triage at AEDs and GOPCs.

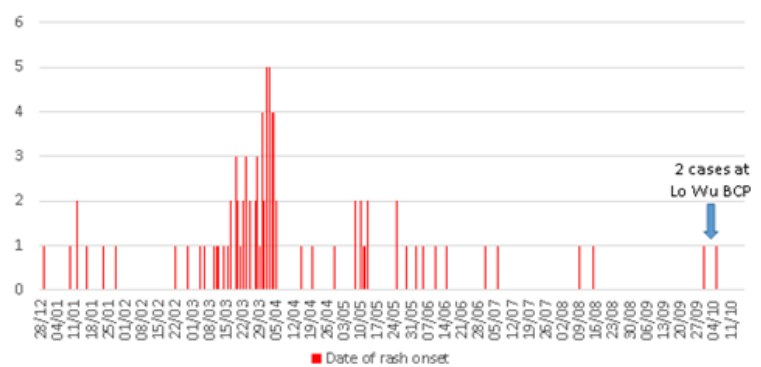
- Be alert to patients with
 - (i) clinical symptoms of measles (i.e. fever and rash OR fever and cough/coryza/conjunctivitis)
 - (ii) epidemiological linkage such as contact with a confirmed measles case, occupation, travel history, etc.
- All suspected measles cases should be put in airborne infection isolation rooms, while awaiting further clinical assessment.
- HCWs who are non-immune to measles are encouraged to get vaccinated. The Staff Measles Vaccination Programme (SMVP) is ongoing and appointment can be made with Staff Clinics.

Reference:
 CHP, Press Release (11 Oct 2019). Investigates Measles Infection Case:
<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/201910/11/P2019101100745.htm>

Table 1: Summary of Two Measles Cases

Case information	Case 1	Case 2
Date of CHP report	10 Oct	11 Oct
Sex/Age	M/30Y	M/42Y
Date of rash onset	5 Oct	30 Sep
Occupation	Customs officers	
Workplace	Lo Wu Boundary Control Point	
Travel history during incubation period	Thailand	Shenzhen
Documented evidence of measles vaccination	Unknown	Unknown
Current condition	Stable, no admission	Stable, discharged

Figure 1: Reported Measles Cases in Hong Kong 2019 (as of 16 Oct)



Update on HA Guideline on Measles

The latest revision of guideline on measles (version 3.3) has been released. Below are the key changes for quick reference:

1. “Suspected case” was removed in the case definition.
2. Individuals with “laboratory confirmed measles infection in the past” are considered to be immune to measles.
3. The point of “Special consideration on keeping medically fit patient hospitalized if the patient comes from institution or with non-immune high risk household member” was removed from session 6. Infection control measures of patients.
4. The point of “Other individuals with > 72 hours but within 6 days of exposure” was removed from session 7.3.2 Immunoglobulin (IG).
5. Remark added to Table 1: time required for airborne-contaminant removal applies to empty room with no aerosol-generating source.
6. Note 1 under table 2: MMR vaccine received before age of 12 months is not counted as a valid “first dose”.
7. Note 2 under table 2: IG should normally be reserved for use in high risk groups like infants aged ≤ 12 months, pregnant women and immunocompromised patients.
8. Appendix 1 has included the Wiskott-Aldrich syndrome (defining immunocompromised patient).
9. Appendix 2 – 4 frequently asked questions on measles were listed.

For details, please refer to the Guideline on Measles:
https://ha.home/ho/ps/Guideline_Measles.pdf

Upcoming event – Symposium on Advanced Infection Control 2019

Date: 6-7 November, 2019
Venue: Lecture theatre, CHP
Target participants: Staff interested in infection control and driving changes in healthcare settings.
Key topics:

- Tackling Emerging and Re-emerging Infections
- Control of Colistin-Resistant Gram Negative

For details, please access this link:
<http://icidportal.home/Trainings/View/144>