

16 November 2020

Dear Parents / Guardians,

ENHANCED SUBSIDIES FOR CHILDHOOD VACCINATIONS

As part of Ministry of Health's (MOH's) efforts to better protect Singaporean children from vaccine preventable diseases and reduce risk of outbreaks in the community, full subsidies¹ will be provided for vaccinations recommended under the National Childhood Immunisation Schedule (NCIS) at Community Health Assist Scheme (CHAS) GP clinics and polyclinics with effect from 1 November 2020.

The following vaccines have been newly added into the NCIS as of 1 November 2020:

- 1) Two types of varicella-containing vaccines for the prevention of chickenpox:
 - i. combined measles, mumps, rubella and varicella (MMRV) vaccine; and
 - ii. monovalent varicella vaccine.
- 2) Influenza vaccines for children who are at higher risk of developing influenza-related complications.
- 3) Pneumococcal 23-valent polysaccharide vaccine for children with certain medical conditions who are at high risk of developing severe pneumococcal disease. This is in addition to the existing pneumococcal conjugate vaccines currently recommended for all young children.

Please see enclosed (i) softcopy of the booklet for details and (ii) frequently asked questions (FAQs).

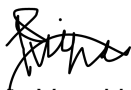
You can access your child's immunisation record on [HealthHub](#) via SingPass log in. Alternatively, you can consult your doctor on the recommended vaccinations. To make an appointment for your child's vaccination, you may contact your preferred CHAS GP clinic or polyclinic.

The School Health Service (SHS) will continue to conduct annual school health visits to provide school-based health screening and immunisation services for primary and secondary school students. As recommended under the NCIS, SHS administers measles, mumps and rubella (MMR), tetanus, diphtheria and acellular pertussis (Tdap) and poliomyelitis vaccinations to primary school students. SHS also administers the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination to female students in secondary schools.

If you have further queries, you may contact us at HPB_Mailbox@hpb.gov.sg or 1800 223 1313.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely,



Ms Vasuki Utravathy
Senior Deputy Director, School Health and Outreach
Health Promotion Board

¹ Applicable to certain vaccine brands. Please refer to <https://go.gov.sg/vaccine-list> for the latest subsidised vaccine brands.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. How do I check my child's vaccination records?

You may check your child's vaccination records (Singaporeans who are born in 1996 and after) with your SingPass via the following Healthhub link:

<https://go.gov.sg/childvaccination>

2. How do I know if my family doctor is a CHAS GP? What should I prepare before bringing my child to the clinic?

You can locate CHAS GP clinics from the following link:

<https://go.gov.sg/chascliniclocator>

You can check with your doctor if there are any preparations required.

3. Is influenza vaccination recommended for my child? Is my child eligible for influenza vaccination subsidies?

Influenza vaccination is recommended for all children who are 6 to 59 months old (<5 years old). The vaccine should be administered annually or per season. Singaporean children that fall within this age group are eligible for influenza vaccination subsidies at CHAS GP clinics and polyclinics.

Influenza vaccination is recommended for children and adolescents aged 5 to 17 years old, annually or per season, if they have a specific medical condition (see question 6). For this group of children and adolescents, please check with your doctor if influenza vaccination is recommended and if your child is eligible for the subsidies.

4. Are pneumococcal vaccinations (PCV10/PCV13 or PPSV23) recommended for my child? Is my child eligible for pneumococcal vaccination subsidies?

Pneumococcal vaccination (PCV10 or PCV13) is recommended for all children and fully subsidised for Singaporean children from 1 November 2020 at CHAS GP clinics and polyclinics. Previously unvaccinated healthy children age <5 years and older children with certain medical conditions are recommended to receive PCV10/PCV13. If your child has not been previously vaccinated, please consult your doctor if the vaccine is still recommended for your child.

Another type of pneumococcal vaccine, PPSV23, is recommended for children and adolescents aged 2 to 17 years old who have a specific medical condition. For this group of children and adolescents, please check with your doctor if PPSV23 is recommended and if your child is eligible for the subsidies.

5. Is varicella (chickenpox) vaccine recommended for my child? Is my child eligible for varicella vaccination subsidies?

Two doses of varicella vaccinations are recommended at 12 and 15 months. If your child is age 12 months or older, they are eligible for varicella vaccination and subsidies.

Older Singaporean children and adolescents who are previously unvaccinated are also recommended and eligible for varicella vaccination subsidies at CHAS GP clinics and polyclinics if they have not been previously vaccinated against varicella.

6. Children and adolescent of a certain age group with certain medical conditions are recommended to get (i) influenza vaccination and (ii) pneumococcal vaccination (PPSV23). What medical conditions and for what age group are these two vaccinations recommended for?

Children and adolescent age 5 to 17 years old with the following conditions are recommended to get the influenza vaccination:

- a) who have chronic disorders of the pulmonary or cardiovascular systems, including asthma;
- b) who have required medical follow-up or hospitalisation due to chronic metabolic diseases (including diabetes mellitus), renal, neurologic, hepatic, or haematologic disorders, or immunosuppression (including immunosuppression caused by medications, HIV or other immunodeficiencies); and
- c) who are receiving long term aspirin therapy and therefore might be at risk for developing Reye syndrome after influenza infection.

Children and adolescent age 2 to 17 years old with the following conditions are recommended to get the pneumococcal vaccination (PPSV23):

- a) Chronic pulmonary, cardiovascular, renal or liver disease, or diabetes mellitus;
- b) Cochlear implant or cerebrospinal fluid leak;
- c) Anatomic or functional asplenia (including conditions such as homozygous sickle cell disease and coeliac syndrome that may lead to splenic dysfunction); and
- d) Immunosuppression (including immunosuppression caused by medications, HIV or other immunodeficiencies).

If your child has any medical conditions, you may wish to consult your child's attending doctor accordingly.

7. What are the vaccines that are offered by the Health Promotion Board's (HPB) school-based vaccination programme?

As part of HPB's school-based vaccination programme, Tetanus, diphtheria and acellular pertussis (Tdap) and inactivated poliovirus (IPV) vaccines are offered to Primary 5 students. The human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine is offered to Secondary 1 and 2 female students. Measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine may be offered as a catch-up for those who require it.

8. Is natural immunity better than getting my child vaccinated? What is the risk of not getting vaccinated?

Your child's immune system develops immunity following vaccination, similar to how it would after a "natural" infection. The difference is that your child does not get sick first when he/she receives the vaccination. Vaccines help develop immunity and protect against potentially life-threatening complications from natural infection. Your child is at risk of infection and developing complications from the infections if not vaccinated. Hence, it is important that your child gets vaccinated as recommended.