

# Engaging the Community in Combating COVID-19 : Using COVID-19 Vaccination and District Health Centres as examples

The 9th Global Conference of the Alliance for Healthy Cities  
Secretary for Food and Health of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region  
Professor Sophia Siu-chee CHAN, JP

5 November 2021

# Outline

## (a) COVID-19: The Hong Kong Success Story

### (b) COVID-19 Vaccination

- COVID-19 Vaccination Programme
- Engaging experts and professional bodies
- Promoting vaccination
- Engaging population sub-groups
  - Adolescents and youngsters
  - The elderly
  - Ethnic minorities

### (b) District Health Centres

# COVID-19: The Hong Kong Success Story



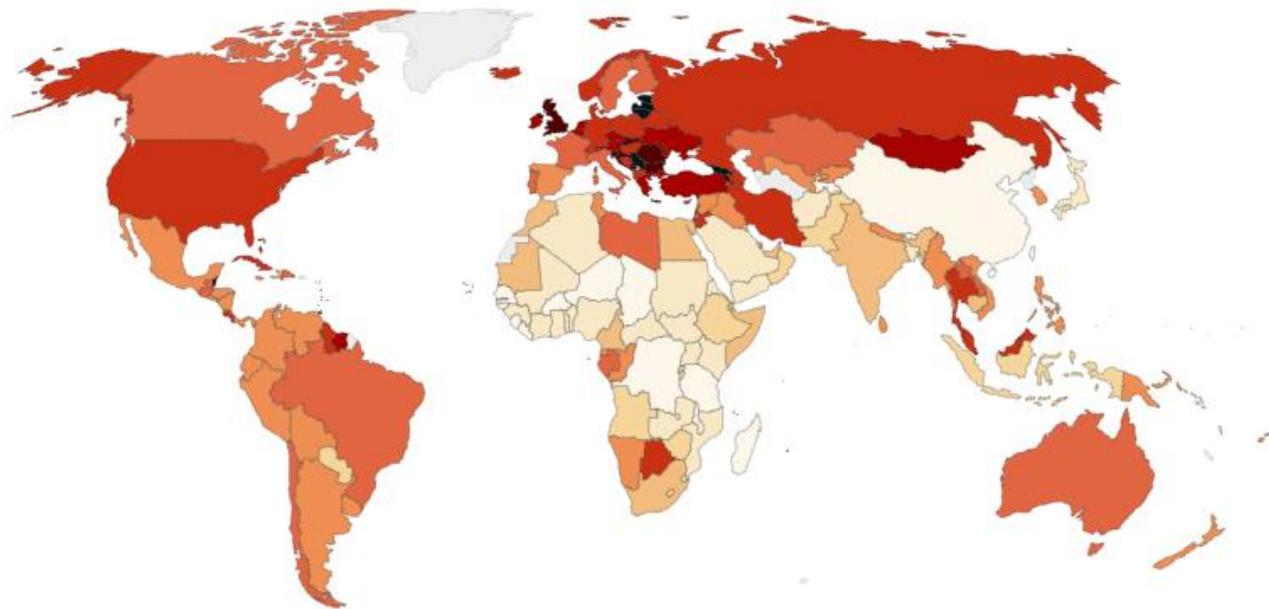
# Global epidemic situation

Daily new confirmed COVID-19 cases per million people, Oct 25, 2021

Shown is the rolling 7-day average. The number of confirmed cases is lower than the number of actual cases; the main reason for that is limited testing.

Our World  
in Data

World



No data 0 0.5 2.5 5 10 50 100 250 500 1,000 4,000

- The global epidemic situation remains severe, with more than **2.7** million weekly new cases reported in mid-October
- About **5** million people have lost their lives

# Local epidemic situation in Hong Kong

- **3** principles in fighting the pandemic
  - speedy response in light of the situation
  - moving ahead of the times to prepare for the worse
  - operating in an open and transparent manner
- Basically achieved “zero local infection” since May
- Hong Kong has recorded about **12500** COVID-19 cases, at a ratio of around **1640** cases per one million population, one of the lowest among the world’s economies
- We never have a city lockdown and people’s lives largely return to normal



# Success factors in fighting the virus

- Strict implementation of the anti-epidemic strategy of “preventing the importation of cases and the spreading of virus in community”
- Use of technology to fight the epidemic
- Response and measures are largely effective
- Significant achievement for a city as compact and densely populated as Hong Kong, and with cross border and international travel maintained.



# COVID-19 Vaccination

# COVID-19 Vaccination Programme

- A territory-wide COVID-19 Vaccination Programme was launched starting from February 2021 to ensure all eligible Hong Kong residents to receive COVID-19 vaccination free of charge
- The Government engages different stakeholders so as to provide vaccination service to the public at the following venues -
  1. Community Vaccination Centres
  2. Designated general outpatient clinics of the Hospital Authority
  3. Designated private clinics
  4. Residential care homes and nursing homes
  5. Designated clinics of the Department of Health
  6. Hospital COVID-19 Vaccination Stations
  7. Outreach vaccination service

# Community Vaccination Centres (CVCs)

- CVCs are set up in each of the 18 districts in Hong Kong providing vaccination service to the public
- Each CVC provides either BioNTech or Sinovac vaccine
- Multi-disciplinary team to provide the vaccination service at CVCs
- How to receive vaccination:
  - Through the 24-hour online booking system
  - Limited number of same-day walk-in tickets

# Engaging the health sector in CVC operation

- The Government partnered with the Hospital Authority and a number of healthcare professional bodies, medical organisations and private hospitals to take charge of the medical-related tasks at the CVCs



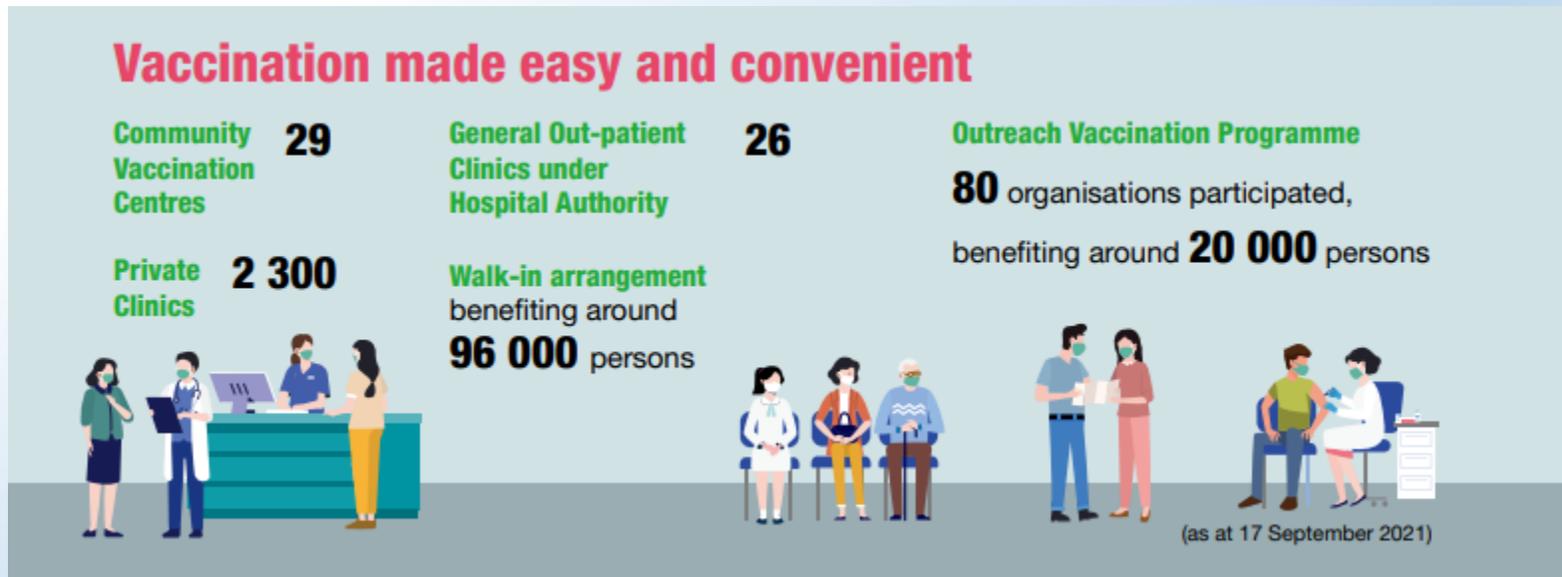
# Engaging the community in CVC operation

- To facilitate the public in receiving the vaccine:
  - Territory-wide health promotion and publicity to raise awareness
  - Increased accessibility (at least one CVC in each of the 18 districts)
  - Outreach services



# Outreach vaccination service

- Residential care homes and nursing homes
  - Outreach vaccination service or vaccination by visiting medical officers to be provided
- District level e.g. community centres of public housing estates, NGOs service users
- Enterprises and organisations from various sectors and trades
  - Enterprises and organisations can make use of the outreach vaccination service so that their employees can get vaccinated in a more convenient way



Source: The Chief Executive's  
2021 Policy Address  
Supplement

# Outreach vaccination service

- The Government's outreach vaccination team visited Tai O in mid October to provide vaccination services to residents, in particular elderly persons, living in relatively remote areas
- One-stop services consisting of a health talk and medical consultation to learn more about COVID-19 vaccines



# Engaging experts and professional bodies

# Setting up and engagement of expert groups

- Advisory Panel on COVID-19 Vaccines
- Joint Scientific Committee on Emerging and Zoonotic Disease and Scientific Committee on Vaccine Preventable Diseases
- Expert Committee on Clinical Events Assessment Following COVID-19 Immunisation



# Engagement of other professional bodies



- Other professional bodies in providing expert opinions for the interim guidance notes on Common Medical Diseases and COVID-19 Vaccination In Primary Care Settings

# Promoting vaccination

# Promoting vaccination

- Press conferences
- COVID vaccine thematic website ([www.covidvaccine.gov.hk](http://www.covidvaccine.gov.hk)) as a one-stop platform for latest updates and information of public concern from different government departments
- Others:
  - Health talks, Announcements in the Public Interest (APIs), social media campaigns
  - Public transport, outdoor and digital advertisement, newspaper, media interviews, email communication to various stakeholders



# APIs and videos to promote vaccination



COVID-19 Vaccination Fact Check Series



Family Doctors on Vaccination Series



Protect Yourself and Others Get Vaccinated Series



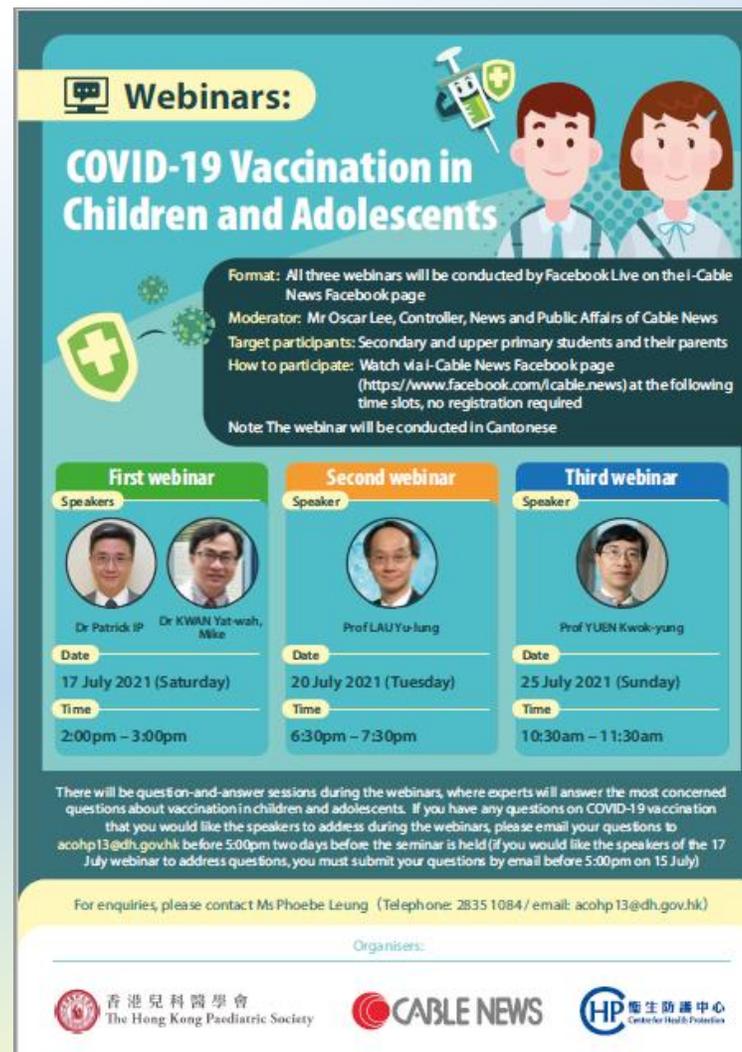
Early Vaccination for All Series (Hong Kong Athlete)

# Engaging population sub-groups: Adolescents and youngsters

# Health talks targeting relevant stakeholders

Webinars and health talks for -

- School principals and teachers
- Healthcare professionals
- Parents
- Students



**Webinars:**

## COVID-19 Vaccination in Children and Adolescents

Format: All three webinars will be conducted by Facebook Live on the I-Cable News Facebook page  
Moderator: Mr Oscar Lee, Controller, News and Public Affairs of Cable News  
Target participants: Secondary and upper primary students and their parents  
How to participate: Watch via I-Cable News Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/icable.news>) at the following time slots, no registration required  
Note: The webinar will be conducted in Cantonese

First webinar	Second webinar	Third webinar
<b>Speakers</b>  Dr Patrick IP  Dr KWAN Yat-wah, Mike	<b>Speaker</b>  Prof LAU Yu-lung	<b>Speaker</b>  Prof YUEN Kwok-yung
<b>Date</b> 17 July 2021 (Saturday)	<b>Date</b> 20 July 2021 (Tuesday)	<b>Date</b> 25 July 2021 (Sunday)
<b>Time</b> 2:00pm – 3:00pm	<b>Time</b> 6:30pm – 7:30pm	<b>Time</b> 10:30am – 11:30am

There will be question-and-answer sessions during the webinars, where experts will answer the most concerned questions about vaccination in children and adolescents. If you have any questions on COVID-19 vaccination that you would like the speakers to address during the webinars, please email your questions to [acohp13@dh.gov.hk](mailto:acohp13@dh.gov.hk) before 5:00pm two days before the seminar is held (if you would like the speakers of the 17 July webinar to address questions, you must submit your questions by email before 5:00pm on 15 July)

For enquiries, please contact Ms Phoebe Leung (Telephone: 2835 1084 / email: [acohp13@dh.gov.hk](mailto:acohp13@dh.gov.hk))

Organisers:

 香港兒科醫學會  
The Hong Kong Paediatric Society

 CABLE NEWS

 衛生防護中心  
Center for Health Protection

# Videos to appeal to adolescents and youngsters



# Engaging population sub-groups: The elderly

# Appeal to the elderly - APIs



# Appeal to the elderly – bilingual health educational materials

香港特別行政區政府  
The Government of the Hong Kong  
Special Administrative Region

2019冠狀病毒病  
疫苗接種計劃  
COVID-19 Vaccination Programme

## 保護自己 長者應接種 新冠疫苗



**長者感染  
後果嚴重**

- 2019冠狀病毒病是由新型冠狀病毒引起的疾病。感染後可能會出現呼吸衰竭、敗血症、血栓栓塞、多器官衰竭等併發症。
- 年紀較大或健康有問題的人士(如高血壓、心肺疾病、糖尿病、肥胖症或癌症患者)，感染後較大機會出現嚴重情況及死亡。
- 長者是最高風險群組
  - 與 18 至 29 歲人士的死亡率相比
 

65-74 歲 死亡率為其 <b>95</b> 倍	75-84 歲 死亡率為其 <b>230</b> 倍	85 歲或以上 死亡率為其 <b>610</b> 倍
------------------------------------	-------------------------------------	-------------------------------------

(根據美國疾病控制及預防中心 2021 年 6 月公布的數據)

- 根據香港 2021 年 6 月的數據，80 歲或以上患者的死亡百分比最高(25.1%)，其次是 70 至 79 歲的患者(7.8%)。感染後患有嚴重疾病的風險亦隨年齡顯著增加，尤以 60 歲或以上的長者為高風險。

**接種疫苗  
有效保護**

- 接種新冠疫苗有效預防 2019 冠狀病毒病，並可減低長者(包括安老院舍院友)患上重症或死亡的風險。
- 專家建議所有曾接種流感疫苗的長者均可安全地接種新冠疫苗。
- 如有慢性疾病，只要病情穩定，應盡早接種疫苗以作保護。
- 接種疫苗後同時採取其他預防措施，包括保持社交距離、良好手部衛生，以及在公眾地方佩戴口罩，可提供最佳的保護。

\*對於最虛弱的長者，可能需仔細權衡相關的效益與風險。

A concise guide

## For the Elderly

Older persons living in residential care homes, being usually older, more frail and with more chronic illnesses, have the highest mortality rate after COVID-19 infection.

The environment in care homes also favours COVID-19 transmission, vaccination of individual resident is highly recommended.




COVID-19 vaccines used in Hong Kong can protect those aged 60 or above.



They are highly effective, up to 85 to 97%, in preventing COVID-19 related hospitalization, critical disease and death among them.



The side-effects of BioNTech and Sinovac vaccines occur less frequently in older adults.



Vaccination is also an important prerequisite for the relaxation of visiting arrangements of residential care homes, which will improve the elderly resident's quality of life.

Version date: 4 October 2021 Please refer to [online version](#) for most updated information



更多詳情請  
For more information on fighting the virus:  
[www.coronavirus.gov.hk](http://www.coronavirus.gov.hk)

衛生防護中心 Facebook 專頁  
For more information on Facebook:  
[fb.com/CentreforHealthProtection](https://www.facebook.com/CentreforHealthProtection)

衛生防護中心  
Centre for Health Protection

衛生署健康教育專組  
Health Education Initiative of the Department of Health

2833 0111

衛生署  
Department of Health

# Appeal to the elderly (and their families) – Posts issued on Facebook

**1** The elderly should receive COVID-19 vaccine as early as possible



The elderly are the group of people with highest risk of complications and death from COVID-19 diseases. Complications may include respiratory failure, sepsis, thromboembolism, and multi-organ failure including injury of the heart, liver or kidneys.

COVID-19 vaccines are highly recommended for the elderly.

HP 衛生防護中心  
Department of Health

**2** The elderly should receive COVID-19 vaccine as early as possible



Experts' recommendations: COVID-19 vaccines are highly effective in reducing severe illnesses and death.

Elderly people who have previously received influenza vaccines can safely receive COVID-19 vaccines.

For the elderly with chronic diseases, they should get vaccinated as soon as possible for protection when the condition is stable.

HP 衛生防護中心  
Department of Health

**3** The elderly should receive COVID-19 vaccine as early as possible



Co-infection of COVID-19 and seasonal flu possibly leads to more severe condition.

The elderly should receive COVID-19 as soon as possible and well before the arrival of the winter influenza season.

In general, a minimal interval of 14 days is needed between administration of COVID-19 vaccine and other vaccine (including flu vaccine).

HP 衛生防護中心  
Department of Health

**4** The elderly should receive COVID-19 vaccine as early as possible



Vaccine may not be able to completely stop the COVID-19 virus transmission, in particular for the virus variants. Vaccination for young people only may not be sufficient to provide protection to the elderly.

The best way to protect the elderly is to have them get vaccinated themselves.

HP 衛生防護中心  
Department of Health

**5** The elderly should receive COVID-19 vaccine as early as possible



People infected with COVID-19 may be completely asymptomatic but still able to spread the disease.

The elderly may get infected when they contact infected persons or contaminated objects.

Even if they often stay at home, there is no guarantee of full protection against the infection.

The combination of vaccination and non-pharmaceutical interventions (including mask wearing, hand hygiene and social distancing) allows for maximum protection against the virus.

HP 衛生防護中心  
Department of Health

**6** The elderly should receive COVID-19 vaccine as early as possible



COVID-19 vaccination rate among the elderly is still low. It is worrying that majority of the elderly are not protected.

Elderlies should receive the vaccine as soon as possible to protect themselves and prevent severe illnesses and death, as long as they are not suffering from acute illnesses.

HP 衛生防護中心  
Department of Health

# Engaging population sub-groups: Ethnic minorities (EM)

# Publicity actions for EM community

- Since the early stage of the epidemic, health educational materials (HEMs) have been translated into EM languages
- >600 HEMs available (in 9 EM languages):
- Bahasa Indonesia, Bengali, Hindi, Nepali, Sinhala, Tagalog, Thai, Urdu and Vietnamese
- Selected COVID-19 vaccination materials in French, Punjabi, Spanish and Tamil



香港特別行政區政府

同心抗疫 Together, We Fight the Virus!

本地情況互動地圖 | 最新消息 | 新聞短片 | 病毒資訊 | 澄清 | 實用資訊 | 疫情概覽 | 健康資訊 | 資源中心 | 社區參與

添馬台 Facebook | 香港抗疫 TG 頻道 | 政府新聞網 Facebook | 政府新聞處 YouTube | 政府新聞網 網站 | 衛生防護中心 Facebook | 衛生防護中心 YouTube | 醫院管理局 Facebook | 醫院管理局 YouTube

हिन्दी | नेपा ली | اردو | ไทย | Bahasa Indonesia | Tagalog | සිංහල භාෂාව | বাংলা ভাষা | Tiếng Việt

EN | 簡 | 字型大小 | 輸入關鍵字



2019冠狀病毒病 疫苗接種計劃 COVID-19 Vaccination Programme

2019冠狀病毒病 疫苗接種計劃 繁體中文	2019冠狀病毒病 疫苗接種計劃 簡體中文	COVID-19 Vaccination Programme English
COVID-19 टीकाकरण योजना - हिन्दी	COVID-19 चोटी योजना - नेपाली	COVID-19 ویکسین تھیش پروگرام - اردو
COVID-19 - ไทย	Program Vaksinasi COVID-19 Bahasa Indonesia	Programa sa Bakuna para sa COVID-19 Tagalog
COVID-19 සිංහල භාෂාවේ විකුණුම් - Sinhala	COVID-19 বিজ্ঞপ্তি - বাংলা ভাষা Bengali	Chương trình tiêm vắc-xin COVID-19 - Tiếng Việt Vietnamese

衛生防護中心 衛生防護中心網站 www.chp.gov.hk 衛生防護中心 Facebook 衛生防護中心 Facebook

# Engaging local EM leaders and representatives



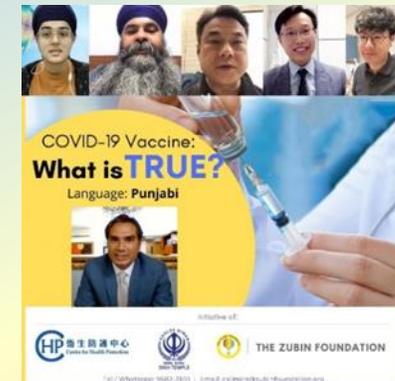
Roundtable discussion chaired by SFH



"Go for it - Ethnic Friends" Series: appeal videos by EM community leaders

# Radio channel announcements and health talks

- Radio channel announcements
  - Collaboration with the Home Affairs Department
  - 5 radio programmes in Bahasa Indonesia, Hindi, Nepali, Thai and Urdu
  - Regular announcements and recorded interviews (line-up with United Christian Nethersole Community Health Service)
- Health talks
  - Since February, Health Promotion Branch of DH has been collaborating with various NGOs to organise face-to-face and online health talks on COVID-19 vaccine for EM



# Pilot Health Promotion Project for EM

- Aim
  - Strengthen EM's knowledge of COVID-19 prevention measures, testing and vaccination
  - Further promote EM's registration in the COVID-19 Vaccination Programme
- Started in March 2021
- Primary targets: Nepalese, Indian and Pakistani living in Yuen Long, YTM and SSP districts
- Activities
  - Liaison with EM stakeholders
  - Home visits
  - Hotline service



# Sleeves up calls from friends in EM groups

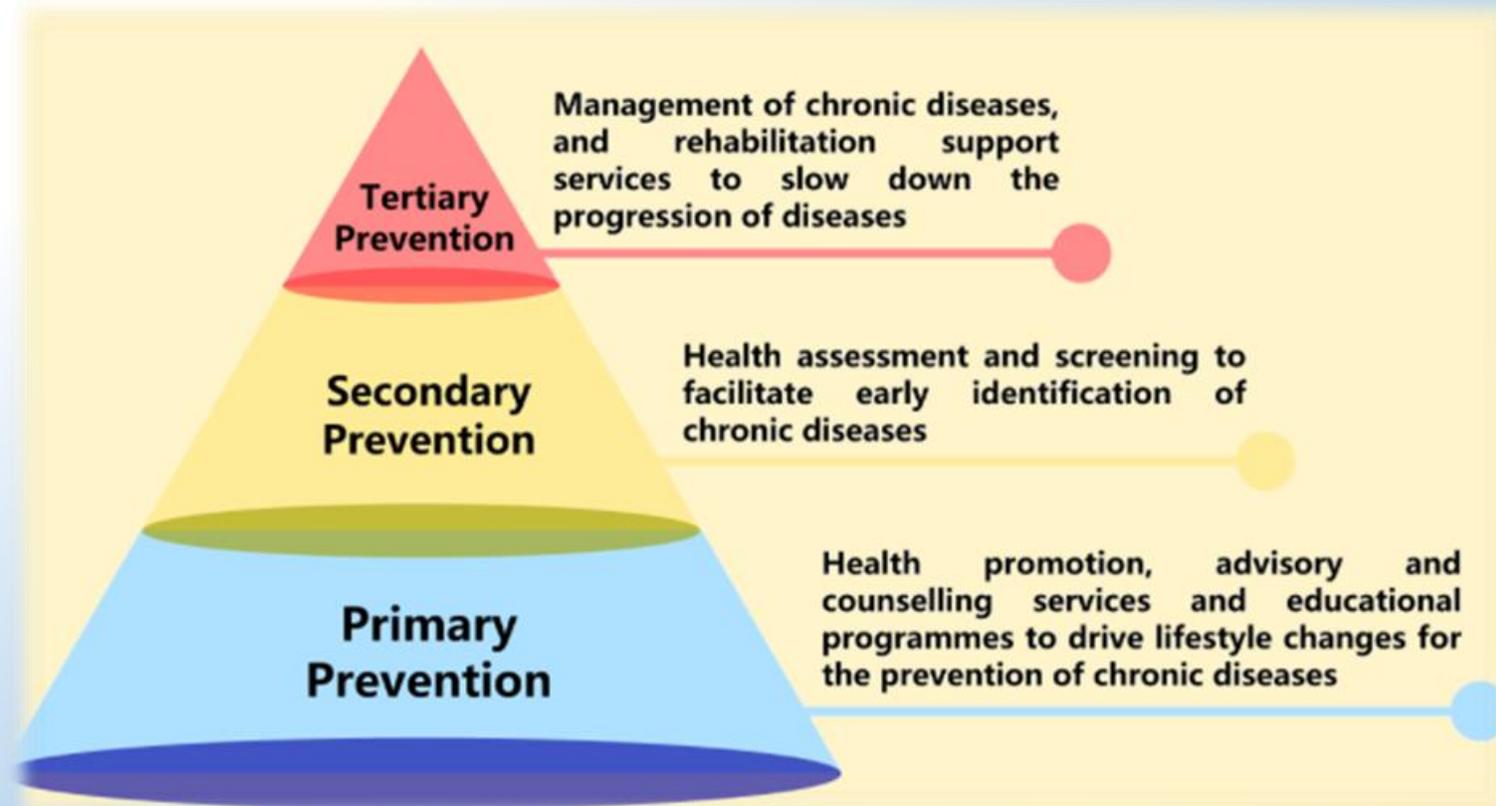


<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bZYdmcRt1IU>

# COVID-19 Support Work by District Health Centres (DHC)

# COVID-19 Support Work by DHC

- **Healthcare-focused service**
- Provides primary, secondary, and tertiary preventive care



# District Health Centre

- **A service resource hub**

- ▶ Coordinates, synergises and maximises community health and social services in both public and private sectors
- ▶ Strengthens the literacy/capacity of the clients and the community in management of their own health
- ▶ Builds and strengthens social support (including family, immediate carer and self-help groups)



地區康健中心  
District Health Centre

# COVID-19 Support Work by DHC

## Kwai Tsing District Health Centre (K&TDHC)

- Collaborated with different stakeholders, such as NGOs, network doctors, to organise health **educational and promotion** events on **infection control and COVID-19 vaccination** at Centres and online
- Provided **update information** of the Community Testing Centre/COVID-19 RT-PCR Testing Institutions and COVID-19 Community Vaccination Centres/ local doctors enrolled in Vaccination Subsidy Scheme to local residents
- Produced a series of **video clips** to facilitate the public understanding of COVID-19 and provide tips for combating the disease for the general public (*Translated into several main EM languages for EM citizens' information*)



K&TDHC Core and  
Satellite Centres  
coordinate care



NGOs & Community Partners



# COVID-19 Support Work by DHC

- **Hotline, counselling and social support** for those residents living/working at the areas with confirmed COVID-19 cases
- Distribution points for COVID-19 **specimen collection packs**
- Supported those **discharged patients recovered from COVID-19** with professional health advice
- Provided **outreach COVID-19 vaccination services** at DHC centres



# New initiatives

- Press ahead with vaccination of target groups, particularly the elderly aged 70 or more to protect them from serious illness if they were infected and to build a protective shield
- On 27 Oct, JSC-EAP reviewed the latest scientific evidence and recommendations by the World Health Organization and overseas health authorities, and recommended three doses of COVID-19 vaccine for certain groups of immunocompromised patients



# Areas for Enhancement

# Reach out to the community and focusing on the elderly

- Reaching out to the community and focusing on the elderly is a strategy priority of the COVID-19 Vaccination Programme at this stage
- A one-stop service covering a health talk, medical consultation and on-site COVID-19 vaccination has been provided in 12 districts to let members of the public learn more about the COVID-19 vaccines and get vaccinated



# Receive both seasonal influenza vaccination and COVID-19 vaccination as soon as possible

- It is important to receive both seasonal influenza vaccination (SIV) and COVID-19 vaccination as soon as possible, particularly for elderly persons residing in the community or residential care homes
  - Elderly people who are fit for SIV are fit for COVID-19 vaccination
  - Elderly people should receive COVID-19 vaccination early as long as they are not suffering from acute illnesses
  - It is recommended to have an interval of at least 14 days between administration of seasonal influenza vaccines and COVID-19 vaccines (Comirnaty or CoronaVac)



# Devote efforts and resources to primary healthcare

- Two DHCs in Kwai Tsing and Sham Shui Po have commenced operation in September 2019 and June 2021 respectively.
- Another five DHCs are expected to commence operation in 2022 and interim DHC Express will be set up in the remaining districts within 2021.
- The DHC will form a service network manned by medical and healthcare practitioners in the district and the DHC would better co-ordinate with other district-based primary healthcare services and facilities such as the Healthy Cities Projects, making it more convenient to meet individual healthcare needs of the community.



# Comprehensive review on planning primary healthcare services and governance framework

- The development of primary healthcare has been a priority in our agenda and COVID-19 has underlined the importance of medical-social collaboration.
- As mentioned in the CE's 2021 Policy Address, FHB has proceeded with a comprehensive review on the planning of primary healthcare services and governance framework to formulate a blueprint for the sustainable development of primary healthcare services in Hong Kong.



# Appeal to vaccination



Thank you