

COVID-19 Vaccination Programme statistics

The COVID-19 Vaccination Programme has been implemented for the 95th day since February 26, 2021.

So far, about 2 400 400 doses of COVID-19 vaccines have been administered for members of the public (please see Annex 1). Among them, about 1 379 400 persons have received their first dose, with about 594 800 persons receiving the Sinovac vaccine and about 784 700 persons receiving the BioNTech vaccine. About 1 021 000 persons have received their second dose, with about 436 000 persons receiving the Sinovac vaccine and about 584 900 persons receiving the BioNTech vaccine.

In the last 24 hours ending at 8pm today (May 31), about 36 400 persons have received vaccination and about 37 700 new vaccination bookings have been made online, detailed as follows:

(i) About 9 800 persons received their first dose of the Sinovac vaccine, including about 4 900 persons vaccinated at Community Vaccination Centres (CVCs) and about 4 900 persons at private doctors and clinics participating in the programme;

(ii) about 6 200 persons received their second dose of the Sinovac vaccine, including about 2 900 persons vaccinated at CVCs and about 3 300 persons at private doctors and clinics;

(iii) about 10 200 persons received their first dose of the BioNTech vaccine at CVCs, and about 10 100 persons received their second dose of the BioNTech vaccine;

(iv) the overall percentage of people who have received the Sinovac vaccine at CVCs is about 96 per cent; while the overall percentage of people who have received the BioNTech vaccine at CVCs is about 97 per cent; and

(v) about 12 300 persons have made online bookings for receiving their first and second doses of the Sinovac vaccine, while about 25 400 persons have made online bookings for receiving their first and second doses of the BioNTech vaccine.

In the last 24 hours ending at 0.00am today, there were four cases of ambulance transfers to hospitals. Among them, two persons were discharged, one person was admitted for observation and one person was discharged against medical advice (please see Annex 2).

As background information, in the last 24 hours ending at 0.00am today, there were 42 cases of stroke or myocardial infarction that required admission to the Intensive Care Unit, Acute Stroke Unit and Cardiac Care Unit

of public hospitals. The state of new cases admitted to the wards concerned is provided as a cross reference to enhance fuller public understanding of cases of the kind recorded on vaccine recipients.

Recall of pms-Irbesartan Tablet 150mg and pms-Irbesartan Tablet 300mg

The Department of Health (DH) today (May 31) endorsed a licensed drug wholesaler, Trenton-boma Ltd (T-Boma), to recall two batches of the following products from the market as a precautionary measure due to the presence of an impurity in the product.

Name of Product	Hong Kong Registration Number	Batch Number
pms-Irbesartan Tablet 150mg	HK-61098	617492
pms-Irbesartan Tablet 300mg	HK-61097	624193

The DH received notification from T-Boma today that the overseas manufacturer of the product is initiating a voluntary recall of certain batches of products due to the presence of a higher than accepted level of azido impurity in the affected batches. According to T-Boma, the two affected batches of tablets have been imported and supplied in Hong Kong. As a precautionary measure, T-Boma is voluntarily recalling those batches from the market.

Azido impurity is considered a mutagen that can cause a change in the DNA of a cell and may increase the risk of cancer, but the risk for the azido impurity to cause cancer in humans is unknown. Overseas drug regulatory authorities have been reviewing the safety impact of azido impurity found in medicinal products. The DH will closely monitor the development of the issue and any safety updates regarding the drug issued by overseas drug regulatory authorities for consideration of any action deemed necessary.

The above products are prescription medicines used to lower blood pressure. According to T-Boma, the affected batches have been supplied to private doctors and hospital, as well as pharmacies.

T-Boma has set up a hotline (2370 2092) to handle related enquiries.

"So far, the DH has not received any adverse reaction reports in connection with the products. The DH will closely monitor the recall," a spokesman for the DH said.

"Patients who are taking the above product should not stop taking the medicine, but should seek advice from their healthcare professionals as soon as possible for appropriate arrangements," the spokesman added.



[Transcript of remarks of press conference on “Early Vaccination for All” campaign \(with photos/video\)](#)

The Chief Executive, Mrs Carrie Lam, held a press conference this afternoon (May 31) on the launch of the "Early Vaccination for All" campaign by the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government. Also joining were the Secretary for Food and Health, Professor Sophia Chan; the Secretary for the Civil Service, Mr Patrick Nip; the Secretary for Innovation and Technology, Mr Alfred Sit; and member of the Advisory Panel on COVID-19 Vaccines Dr Thomas Tsang. Following is the transcript of remarks of the press conference.

Reporter: Good afternoon. Several English questions. First on civil servants. Mr Nip, do you think, are the two extra days off really enough to motivate civil servants to get jabs? If this doesn't work, what's the next step to boost vaccination among government workers? And ultimately would making it kind of mandatory be an option, for example, making it mandatory for people to be vaccinated in order for them to enter the government headquarters, for example, would that be an option in the end?

Second question to Mrs Lam. Is reaching the vaccination rate of at least 70 per cent your target before September? And what's your appeal to the

private sector, will you appeal to the private sector to hand out more flats, hand out theme park tickets? Because according to your slogan, you're advertising that this is more than just a jab, but listening to appeals or initiatives from the Government, citizens might not be really motivated by this drive as of yet, so what's your appeal to the private sector? Thank you.

Chief Executive: Patrick.

Secretary for the Civil Service: I am sure that this new initiative of granting one day of vaccination leave in the form of authorised absence per dose would be helpful to colleagues, to government employees because it would facilitate them and enable them to have sufficient rest to recover from vaccination should there be any side effects. As you can see, we have adopted a progressive approach to facilitate colleagues to get vaccinated. We will continue to monitor the situation and promote vaccination within the civil service.

Chief Executive: As far as the second question, when we chose this slogan – "It's more than a jab", it has two meanings. One is, it's more than a jab for you to protect yourself and to protect your family members, which has been a slogan we have adopted for the past three months. It's more than a jab because this is the lifeline of Hong Kong. It will make Hong Kong capable of going out of this COVID-19 epidemic if we have a high vaccination rate. We'll have a sufficient level of herd immunity, then business could go back to normal and travel could resume with the Mainland and other parts of the world. I hope members of the public will realise that it's not just taking two doses of vaccine. You are making a huge contribution to Hong Kong society. "It's more than a jab" in a very ordinary sense that apart from receiving the dose, you may have a chance of getting something back, whether it is an extra holiday provided by the employer, whether it is a lucky draw with certain goodies and things like that or discount coupons in shopping malls or free tickets to the theme park and so on. This is a very tangible way in order to overcome what we call "the vaccine hesitancy". I wish to think that people are not resisting vaccination because we have been growing up with vaccination. Kids have to be fully vaccinated before the age of six. But there is a degree of hesitancy to wait and see whether there is something that will happen and so on. In order to overcome that hesitancy and to invite people to spend an hour to make a booking on the website and then come forward to the CVC (Community Vaccination Centre) to receive the jab, we are giving you some more incentives, so to speak. This is what we mean.

In terms of my appeal to the private sector, as I just mentioned in my opening remarks, I have signed off over 100 letters this morning to developers, owners of shopping centres, chambers of commerce and retail sector as well as the clansman associations to appeal to them to offer whatever they feel comfortable, or they are capable of doing. It is not for me to dictate what they should do but I said and I told them in my letter that I'm gratified to see that some enterprises and organisations have already taken that initiative to implement measures in respect of their employees, their customers or just members of the public. These initiatives seem to have some positive results. Although it's a very short period of a

couple of days, we have seen some positive results. I believe that this is a time for concerted efforts in order to achieve the objective of mass vaccination within a short period of time. When that mass vaccination is achieved, there will be a robust immunity defence being built up in Hong Kong, then businesses and everyone in the community will benefit ultimately, and Hong Kong can press ahead with revival of the economy.

These are the appeals to the private sector. I am sure that after this press conference, individual corporations and enterprises will have something to say to echo the Government's campaign drive. It is also for all of us, including our media friends, to help promote and join hands in this campaign, so that hopefully by the end of three months we could reach a comfortable level of vaccination rate that will enable us to do what we want to do in returning to normality. Thank you.

Reporter: In the event of another wave of COVID-19 infection, unvaccinated people may be barred from entering some premises and may be under stricter entry rules. It is unfair for some people such as pregnant women and those who have a medical condition. Do you think that unvaccinated people may take it as a punishment? Thank you.

Chief Executive: Well, in all the things that we have been doing so far that require vaccination, there is always an escape clause, that is, people who are medically not fit for taking the jab and so on. You need not be worried that it will be applied to the extent that people who are not medically fit will still be required to take a jab in order to do something which is very essential to their daily living, for example going to school. When you mention this word about "fair", I hope people who have yet to take the jab will also realise that we need them to participate in order to be fair to all those who have taken the jab hitherto, so that all of us, together, could reach a higher level of vaccination rate that will keep the city safe. This is what we are going to achieve and we want to achieve under this "Early Vaccination for All" campaign.

(Please also refer to the Chinese portion of the transcript.)





[Housing Authority welcomes and supports provision of “vaccination leave”](#)

The following is issued on behalf of the Hong Kong Housing Authority:

The Hong Kong Housing Authority (HA) welcomed the announcement by the Government today (May 31) to provide government employees with vaccination leave, and would extend the arrangement to all contract staff employed by the HA.

"We fully appreciate the efforts and support of fellow HA staff members in helping combat the epidemic over the past 16 months", a spokesman for the HA said. "We hope that fellow HA staff members who have not yet vaccinated will consider doing so with the added facilitation of vaccination leave. This will better protect themselves and the public whom we serve, and will help restore to normality of society".

[A staff of an employment agency convicted](#)

A staff of an employment agency (EA staff) was convicted of aiding and abetting a foreign domestic helper (FDH) breaching condition of stay and overcharging a FDH, and was sentenced to 140 hours' community service order and a fine of \$8,000 today (May 31) at Shatin Magistrates' Courts. The Court also ordered the EA staff to refund the excessive placement fee to the FDH concerned.

In 2019, the Immigration Department (ImmD) received a referral of complaint from the Labour Department (LD) indicating that an EA staff requested a FDH, after entering Hong Kong, to perform domestic duties at the EA staff's residence for two weeks before she was arranged to work for the employer as specified in the employment contract. Acting on the referral, the ImmD thus commenced the investigation. At the same time, the LD initiated investigation against the EA staff as the complaint also involved excessive commission charged by the EA staff to the concerned FDH. After investigation, the ImmD and LD decided to instigate prosecution against the EA staff. After trial, the EA staff was convicted and sentenced today.

The Government spokesman said, "FDHs should only perform domestic duties specified in the employment contract as approved by the Director of Immigration, and should not take up any duties other than those stipulated in the employment contract. Otherwise, they will breach their condition of stay. Offenders as well as aiders and abettors are liable to prosecution and upon conviction to a maximum fine of \$50,000 and imprisonment for two years."

The Government spokesman also emphasised, "Under the Employment Ordinance, an employment agency (EA) licensee or his/her associate, or a person purporting to act in such capacities, is not allowed to collect from a job seeker any fees or charges other than the prescribed commission, which is an amount not exceeding 10 per cent of the first month's salary of the job seeker upon successful placement. Besides, the EAs should operate in full compliance with the law and the Code of Practice for Employment Agencies at all times. Failure to do so may lead to prosecution and/or revocation of licence. The Employment (Amendment) Ordinance 2018, effective since February 9, 2018, has raised the maximum penalty for overcharging job seekers to a fine of \$350,000 and imprisonment for three years."

Members of the public can report immigration-related crimes by 24-hour Immigration Offences Hotline 2824 1551, fax 2824 1166, email anti_crime@immd.gov.hk or visit the ImmD website www.immd.gov.hk by completing the Online Immigration Offences Report Form.

For enquiries or complaints about unlicensed operations or overcharging by EAs, please call the Employment Agencies Administration of the LD at 2115 3667, or visit its office at Unit 906, 9/F, One Mong Kok Road Commercial Centre, 1 Mong Kok Road, Kowloon.