

TB & Chest Service, Department of Health

BCG Vaccination

TB & Chest Service Telephone InfoLine: 2572 6024

Welcome to the website: http://www.info.gov.hk/tb_chest

Tuberculosis is an airborne infectious disease. Though preventive and control services are in place, it is still a common communicable disease in Hong Kong.

What is the use of BCG (Bacilli Calmette-Guerin) vaccination?

BCG is a vaccine to enhance our body immunity against tuberculosis, in particular in the protection against severe forms of tuberculosis.

Who should receive BCG vaccination?

- Newborn babies
- Children aged under 15 who have never received BCG vaccination before

BCG vaccination is not recommended for persons with the following health conditions:

(1) Conditions with impaired immunity

- Any form of malignancy, in particular leukaemia and lymphoma
- When receiving immunosuppressive therapy, e.g. irradiation therapy, treatment with cytotoxic drugs or systemic steroids. (It is recommended that BCG should be considered only after at least 3 months of stopping systemic steroids, or 6 months after stopping cytotoxic drug treatment.)
- Immunodeficient conditions, either congenital or acquired (e.g. HIV infection)

(2) Having received live vaccine within the past four weeks e.g. measles, mumps, rubella vaccination. (BCG vaccination can be considered after 4 weeks of receiving these vaccinations.)

(3) Febrile condition

(4) Generalised severe skin condition

Persons with the following conditions are not recommended to receive BCG vaccination

(1) Having a past history of tuberculosis

(2) Having received BCG vaccination before

(3) Aged 15 or above

BCG Vaccination – Reaction and Care

A small red papule or ulcer may develop in about two to four weeks after BCG vaccination. It will gradually dry up in a few weeks, then heal completely leaving a very small or no scar. Occasionally some children may develop small lumps of enlarged lymph glands under the armpit. Other adverse reactions should be quite rare.

The following points should be noted after BCG vaccination

1. Don't worry in case of minor pustule or ulcer formation. This is a normal reaction which will heal gradually after a few weeks.
2. Take bath as usual. The vaccination site should be kept clean and dry. If necessary, it can be cleansed with distilled water and dried up with gauze afterward.
3. Avoid tight clothing
4. No medication, ointment, adhesive plaster or dressing applied to the vaccination site.

For enquiries about the aforementioned reactions, please call by phone or make a personal visit to the nearby Government Chest Clinic for further information or consultation.

Full Time Chest Clinics

● Wanchai Chest Clinic 1/F, Wanchai Polyclinic, 99 Kennedy Road, Wanchai, Hong Kong	2591 1195
● Sai Ying Pun Chest Clinic 2/F, Sai Ying Pun Jockey Club Polyclinic, 134 Queen's Road West, Hong Kong	2859 8227
● Shaukeiwan Chest Clinic 2/F, Shaukeiwan Jockey Club Clinic, 8 Chai Wan Road, Hong Kong	2560 4522
● Kowloon Chest Clinic G/F, 147A, Argyle Street, Kowloon	2711 2086
● Yaumatei Chest Clinic 2/F, Yaumatei Jockey Club Polyclinic, 145 Battery Street, Kowloon	2388 5939
● Shek Kip Mei Chest Clinic 1/F, Shek Kip Mei Health Centre, 2 Berwick Street, Kowloon	2777 4535
● East Kowloon Chest Clinic G/F, East Kowloon Polyclinic, 160 Hammer Hill Road, Kowloon	2352 0077
● Yung Fung Shee Chest Clinic 1/F, Yung Fung Shee Memorial Centre, 79 Cha Kwo Ling Road, Kowloon	2727 8250
● Yan Oi Chest Clinic 2/F, Yan Oi Polyclinic, 6 Tuen Lee Street, Tuen Mun, New Territories	2404 3740
● South Kwai Chung Chest Clinic G/F, 310 Kwai Shing Circuit, Kwai Chung, New Territories	2419 1721
● Yuen Chau Kok Chest Clinic 1/F, 29 Chap Wai Kon Street, Sha Tin, New Territories	2647 6445
● Tai Po Chest Clinic 1/F, Tai Po Jockey Club Clinic, 37 Ting Kok Road, Tai Po, New Territories	2689 5600

Time for vaccination

Monday to Friday 9:00am -12:30pm
 2:00pm - 4:30pm

Saturday, Sunday and Public Holiday Closed

(Rev. 1/2020)