

## Launching of On-campus Vaccination Booking System and Updates on Vaccination/Testing Requirements

Monday, Jun 7, 2021, 1:43PM

Dear Members of the University,

As we announced on [28 May 2021](#), an on-campus vaccination exercise has been arranged for the convenience of all University members – including staff families, domestic helpers and regular service contractors on campus.

- The schedule is 23 June (1st dose BioNTech) and 24 June (1st dose Sinovac), followed by 21 July (2nd dose BioNTech) and 22 July (2nd dose Sinovac).
- An online booking system will start to operate at **9 am tomorrow (8 June)**. Members can log in and choose a time slot between 10 am to 3 pm each day, when the vaccination service will be available. Please follow this link [covid19-vaccine-booking.hkust.edu.hk](https://covid19-vaccine-booking.hkust.edu.hk)
- Please note that in this round of on-campus vaccination, only people with a HKID card, or an Exit-Entry Permit for Travelling to and from Hong Kong and Macau (往來港澳通行證, colloquially known as a Two-way Permit 雙程證 or EEP, Exit-Entry Permit) can take part. The University is working closely with the Government to hopefully expand the eligibility in the next round of on-campus vaccination (see below).
- Staff members can follow instructions on the booking system webpage to create temporary log in accounts for their family members so that they can each individually book a time slot for vaccination.
- Offices or departments managing regular service contractors will coordinate collective booking for their contractors.
- A second round of on-campus vaccination are being planned for early September for new University members, including new and returning non-local students who may not have a chance to receive vaccination in their home regions before coming to Hong Kong.

Here are some salient facts to consider in deciding whether to get the COVID-19 vaccination:

- COVID-19 is a deadly infectious disease, many times more dangerous than seasonal influenza. As of 7 June, 2021, there have been 11,859 confirmed cases of COVID-19 infection in Hong Kong, 210 patients died. The mortality rate is 1.77%.
- As in all medical procedures, there is risk involved in vaccination. Narrowly focusing on possible adverse effects after vaccination distorts an objective overall assessment of the risk.
- Up to 30 May 2021, about 2,364,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccines have been administered in Hong Kong, with 3,289 reports, or 0.14% of [Adverse Events Following Immunization \(AEFI\)](#). As defined by WHO, AEFI are any medical occurrence which follows vaccination and does not necessarily have a causal relationship with it. So far, an expert committee has reviewed each case of AEFI and has not identified any case of death to have causal relationship with the COVID-19 vaccination.
- Another way to assess risk of vaccination is to see whether it increases the rates of adverse health events such as death, acute stroke, and acute heart attack. [A rolling review](#) of data from local hospitals shows that vaccinated people actually have LOWER rates of these adverse events compared to people who have not been vaccinated.
- These data clearly demonstrate the risk of COVID-19 vaccination is minimal, while it is indisputable that the vaccine effectively protects people from the deadly disease by significantly reducing the risk of infection, and even if infected, it greatly reduces the likelihood of hospitalization or death.

Except for those who have legitimate medical reasons, we again encourage all members to take the vaccine to protect themselves, and each other. Everyone should take individual responsibility for their own decisions regarding facing the risk of COVID-19 infection, practicing preventive measures, and taking the vaccine. We should also bear in mind our collective responsibility as a community to take necessary actions to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission on campus.

We want to provide some further updates and clarifications to the vaccination/testing requirements. More information is available on the [FAQ page](#) of the COVID-19 Info Portal.

- The vaccination/testing requirements will take effect from mid-August, when the online record system is launched. The exact date will be announced in due course.
- Family members and helpers living on campus are included in the vaccination or regular testing requirement, however the reporting will be done through staff members and will be simplified. Details will be announced later.
- Children under the age of 12 are not yet eligible for COVID-19 vaccination, therefore they are exempted from the vaccination and testing requirements.
- Contractors (including corporate and individual regular contractors) will need to submit an individualized vaccination/testing record in a format acceptable to the University. Ad-hoc contractors are exempted.
- Acceptable testing includes deep throat saliva test currently offered free by the Government, and charged PCR tests by Community Testing Centers and accredited private laboratories. Commercially available COVID-19 rapid antigen test kits are also acceptable.
- University plans to acquire rapid test kits to supply for free to members who could not take vaccine due to proven medical reasons, and on a subsidized price to Band 1 & 2 staff who choose to take regular testing due to other reasons. The kits will also be made available at cost to contractors and members who choose to take regular testing when supply is available.
- HSEO will coordinate a test sample collection service for delivering Government saliva sample tubes to a designated clinic.
- Non-local members who have completed a full course of vaccination by one of the vaccines recognized by the HK Government or WHO do not need to vaccinate again when they arrive. Non-local members who arrive partially vaccinated will need to seek medical advice on the course to follow.
- Staff members are allowed to get COVID-19 vaccination, either on- or off-campus, during their work hours and do not have to take leave.

Every country in the world is doing their best to vaccinate their people as soon as possible, so that we can recover from this unprecedented pandemic. We hope that members of HKUST can all do our share!

Best regards,

Mark HODGSON, Vice-President for Administration and Business

T C PONG, Vice-President for Administration and Business (Designate)

Samuel YU, Director of Health, Safety and Environment