



College of Pharmacy Practice 香港藥劑專科深造學院

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January 11th, 2021

Prof. Chan Siu Chee, Sophia, JP
Secretary for Food & Health
18/F, East Wing, Central Government Offices,
2 Tim Mei Avenue, Tamar
Hong Kong

Dear Honourable Professor Chan,

We write on behalf of the College of Pharmacy Practice to seek your support, hence government support, of an expanded role of pharmacists in Hong Kong in the upcoming and future Covid-19 vaccination campaign.

In the United States, with the blessing of the Secretary of Health and Human Services, pharmacists have been giving the Covid-19 vaccines to the general public. In the UK, the NHS is also approving community pharmacies to aid in this unprecedented, massive vaccination program. In France, nurses will soon be able to provide vaccination without a doctor's supervision, and pharmacists are also awaiting the green light to do the same.

Today, more than 100 pharmacists in Hong Kong have already been trained and certified to give injections. More are continually being trained and certified as our profession anticipates the upcoming surge in demand for vaccine administrators. They are all eager to play a frontline role in the territory-wide Covid-19 vaccination exercise. With Community Vaccination Centres being set up in 18 District Regions, pharmacists are ready to be part of the healthcare team to administer the Covid-19 vaccine on the one hand, and to perform medication review and provide vaccines education on the other hand. In addition, pharmacists may contribute in ways that only pharmacists are trained to do, notably, storage stability and supply chain logistics.

In Hong Kong, there are more than 600 community pharmacies, some of which can serve as an additional venue to provide Covid-19 vaccination to the public. Convenience is an important determinant in the public's enthusiasm to be vaccinated. Moreover, there will be situations where we need to bring the vaccines to the people instead of bringing the people to the vaccine. Some pharmacists are already providing this service for non-biologic drugs.

I hope you will find the concept of active pharmacist participation in the vaccination exercise worthy of your support. We respectfully request a meeting with you and/or your colleagues, either face to face or via Zoom, to review the eligibility requirements, logistics, and related issues, and answer any questions you may have.

We look forward to hearing from you and to the start of another chapter in public-private partnership.



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Sincerely,

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cc: Under Secretary for Food & Health
Chairman, Pharmacy and Poisons Board
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