



香港兒科護理學院  
Hong Kong College of  
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香港兒科醫學會  
The Hong Kong Paediatric  
Society



香港兒童免疫過敏及  
傳染病學會  
The Hong Kong Society for  
Paediatric Immunology,  
Allergy and Infectious  
Diseases



香港兒科護士學會  
Hong Kong Paediatric  
Nurses Association

**Joint Statement of The Hong Kong Paediatric Society, The Hong Kong Society for Paediatric Immunology Allergy and Infectious Diseases, Hong Kong College of Paediatric Nursing and Hong Kong Paediatric Nurses Association on occurrence of myocarditis and pericarditis after mRNA COVID-19 vaccination**

- There have been reports of myocarditis (inflammation of the heart muscles) and pericarditis (inflammation of the outer lining of the heart) to occur more frequently in adolescents and young adults after mRNA COVID-19 vaccination (BioNTech, Moderna) from overseas countries.
- Myocarditis can occur after SARS-CoV2 infection alone, or as a consequence of Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children (MIS-C) following COVID-19 Disease.
- Comirnaty (Fosun Pharma in collaboration with the German drug manufacturer, BioNTech - BNT162b2 mRNA vaccine) is the only mRNA technology platform COVID-19 vaccine preparation currently available in Hong Kong.
- Reported cases mostly were male adolescents and young adults aged 12 and older who received the second dose of the mRNA vaccine.
- Such heart complications are considered exceedingly rare, given hundreds of million doses of mRNA COVID-19 vaccines have been administered worldwide.
- The typical symptoms of myocarditis and pericarditis are chest pain, shortness of breath and palpitation (rapid, strong, fast or irregular heartbeat) occurring within several days after vaccination.
- The condition is mild in most of the affected individuals. Most of these persons only required minimal treatment and recovered fully within a few days.
- A causal link was suspected due to the immunological reaction to the mRNA COVID-19 vaccine. On the other hand, myocarditis and pericarditis have many virological and immunological causes.
- Vaccinees are recommended to rest and to refrain from heavy strenuous exercises / activities after mRNA COVID-19 vaccination for one week which will be helpful during the rare occurrence of myocarditis / pericarditis.
- Vaccinees are advised to seek medical attention in case of development of chest pain, shortness of breath, or palpitations, after receiving the mRNA vaccine.
- Based on the latest scientific data, the benefits of COVID-19 vaccination to the individual, family members and the society outweigh the reported known and potential risk of vaccination in the current pandemic.

- The recent emergence of SARS-CoV2 variants with increased transmissibility requires sufficient herd immunity to prevent further community spread, therefore allowing the society to return to normal.
- Department of Health is actively monitoring the occurrence of the side effects related to COVID vaccination with regular update to the public.
- The Hong Kong Paediatric Society, The Hong Kong Society for Paediatric Immunology Allergy and Infectious Diseases, Hong Kong College of Paediatric Nursing and Hong Kong Paediatric Nurses Association jointly appeal to children and adolescents (aged >12 years inclusive), parents, adult household members and child-carers to receive the COVID 19 vaccine for self-protection, the benefit of our children's physical health and long-term psychosocial development.

30<sup>th</sup> June 2021

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