

Chapter 6. Community-based Health Prevention Programmes in Hong Kong: An Overview of Government Subsidised Services and Programmes

The Hong Kong government has implemented several preventive care programmes to promote the health and wellbeing of its citizens including but not limited to the following:

(a) Health Assessment and Monitoring Services

- (i) **Health and Developmental Surveillance in Maternal and Child Health Centres (MCHCs):** This Scheme, operated by MCHCs under the Department of Health, consists of a series of routine reviews conducted by health professionals, designed to achieve timely identification and referral of children with health and developmental problems. It includes newborn consultation, periodic monitoring of growth and diet assessments, developmental surveillance, hearing and vision screening at specific ages. It emphasises partnership with parents/ caregivers, through anticipatory guidance, eliciting parents' concern and observing the child. For more information, please refer to: <https://s.fhs.gov.hk/1wsdd>
- (ii) **Health Assessment in Student Health Service Centres (SHSCs):** The SHSCs of the Department of Health offer health screening and related services to students in all primary and secondary day schools. These include screening on vision, hearing, blood pressure, scoliosis, physical examination, psychosocial health, health counselling, and health education. The programmes aim to provide health assessment and promote preventive care in the community. For more information, please refer to: https://www.studenthealth.gov.hk/english/resources/resources_forms/appendixs.html

(b) Cancer Screening

- (i) **Cervical Screening Programme:** This programme encourages women aged 25 to 64 who have had sexual experience to have regular cervical screening as an effective way of preventing cervical cancer. The Government promotes cervical screening in collaboration with the healthcare sector to facilitate and encourage women to have regular cervical screening to prevent cervical cancer. To facilitate sharing of information among healthcare providers, the Cervical Screening Information System (CSIS) (www.csis.gov.hk) has been established. It is a computerised registry for keeping and processing related data, including participants' personal information, screening results and next recommended screening date. For more information, please refer to: <https://www.cervicalscreening.gov.hk/en/index.html>
- (ii) **Colorectal Cancer Screening Programme:** This programme subsidise asymptomatic Hong Kong residents aged between 50 and 75 to receive screening service in private sector for prevention of colorectal cancer. Participants will undergo faecal occult blood test (FOBT) as first line screening followed by colonoscopy examination for cases with positive FOBT result. For more information, please refer to : <https://www.colonscreen.gov.hk/en/public/index.html>
- (iii) **Breast Cancer Screening Pilot Programme:** Launched in 2021, this pilot programme provides risk-based breast cancer screening services for eligible female members in the three Women Health Centres and the 18 Elderly Health Centres of the Department of Health. Women with increased risk of breast cancer are recommended to consider mammography (MMG) screening every two years. For more information, please refer to : Women Health Service <https://s.fhs.gov.hk/kdzgl> and Elderly Health Service <https://www.elderly.gov.hk/eindex.html>.

(c) Immunisation

- (i) Hong Kong Childhood Immunisation Programme (HKCIP):** This programme provides free immunisations to eligible children based on recommendations from the Scientific Committee on Vaccine Preventable Diseases (SCVPD). Families can discuss additional vaccine options with their family doctors for personal protection. For more information, please refer to: <https://www.chp.gov.hk/en/static/24008.html>
- (ii) Vaccination Subsidy Scheme:** This scheme provides subsidisation for eligible Hong Kong residents to receive seasonal influenza vaccinations and pneumococcal vaccinations, aiming to reduce the morbidity and mortality related to these diseases. For more information, please refer to: <https://www.chp.gov.hk/en/features/17980.html>