

COVID-19 Vaccination Uptake amongst Different Aged Group Ethnic Minorities

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1. Introduction:

COVID-19 Vaccination for young Children (starting 3 yrs old) in Hong Kong started from January 2022. As UCNCHS was providing a health promotion project for ethnic minorities on COVID-19 prevention, the project team started getting enquires regarding children’s vaccination, in addition to enquiries about the 3rd dose for adults.

2. Aims:

- To promote COVID-19 prevention measures including vaccination
- To assess the uptake of vaccination amongst young children and older adults.

3. Methods:

- A structured questionnaire assessment was used to assess uptake of COVID-19 vaccination amongst different age group.
- The vaccination for young children started in January 2022, assessment included uptake of 1st dose amongst children aged 3-17 yrs old.
- For those aged 18 and above uptake of 3rd dose was assessed
- Due to ongoing social distancing measures all the assessment was conducted via virtual mode , i.e Zoom, WhatsApp video call and Viber video call .
- The assessor who could speak Ethnic minority languages (Nepali/Hindi/Urdu/Punjabi) called the subjects
- Ethnic minority mainly living in Yau Tsim Mong, Sham Shui Po , Yuen Long and Kwai Tsing were targeted.
- Contacts of contact mode was used in identifying the subjects
- Updated information on COVID-19 vaccination was also provided post questionnaire assessment.

Photo :
 Arrangement of
 Group Vaccination
 for children



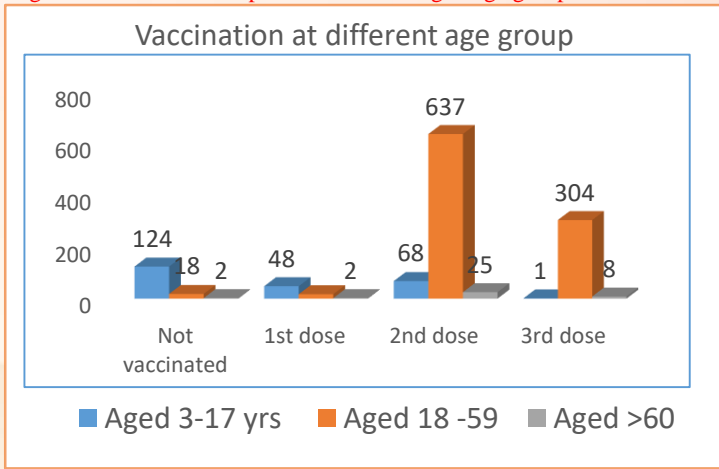
4. Results :

- From February to March 2022, total of 360 questionnaire assessment was conducted, reaching out to 1339 household members.
- Overall 82% (1106/1339) had taken at least 1 dose of COVID-19 vaccination but fully vaccination rate varied amongst different age group.
- Amongst the age group 3-17 yo, 47.6% (118/247) had taken at least 1 dose of COVID-19 vaccination.
- Those aged 18-19 yo 31% (304/973) had 3rd dose and age =>60 yo, 21.6% (8/37) had 3rd dose (Table 1, Figure 1)
- As many parents were not aware on how to book or was not able to book the vaccination for their young children ,2 Group vaccination was arranged for children .

Table1 : Vaccination uptake rate according to age group

Age group/vaccination rate	Not vaccinated	1st dose	2nd dose	3rd dose	Total N
Aged 3-17 yrs	124(51.5%)	48 (20%)	68 (28%)	1 (0.4%)	241
Aged 18 -59	18 (1.8%)	17 (1.7%)	637 (65%)	304 (31%)	976
Aged >60	2 (5%)	2(5%)	25 (67%)	8(21%)	37

Figure 1 : Vaccination uptake rate according to age group



5. Conclusion:

COVID-19 vaccination is effective in fighting the COVID-19 virus. This study identified that the uptake of vaccination amongst the ethnic minority children and 3rd dose amongst adult and elderly is lagging behind. It is early to draw conclusion with this small sample size and within 2 months of start of children vaccination. However to an extent it reflects the current vaccination uptake amongst ethnic minority children and 3rd dose uptake amongst adults. Therefore at present there is a need for promotion of COVID-19 vaccination amongst ethnic minority groups in different languages in a culturally appropriate manner as still many parents are concerned about vaccinating their young children and also getting additional doses (such as 3rd dose or more) of vaccination for the elderly member in their family.