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By Email

28 October 2021

Circular Letter: SU/CTC/2021/002

To: All MPF Approved Trustees and Principal Intermediaries

Dear Sir/Madam,

COVID-19 Vaccination Programme

We refer to our circular letter dated 2 June 2021 encouraging MPF trustees and principal intermediaries to support the COVID-19 Vaccination Programme. The Government has launched the COVID-19 Vaccination Programme for 8 months since February 2021 to safeguard public health from COVID-19 pandemic and enable the resumption of normal activities of society which has been seriously impacted by the pandemic. According to the latest statistics announced by the Government on 27 October 2021, about 9 million doses of vaccines (with about 4.6 million and 4.4 million people having received their first and second doses respectively) have been administered under the COVID-19 Vaccination Programme. It serves the interest of the business community if the COVID-19 vaccination rate keeps raising.

As you should be aware, in the face of the threat posed by COVID-19 mutant strains, the Government has repeatedly advocated the importance of early vaccination and implemented the vaccination in lieu of regular testing (VRT) arrangement to require all civil servants to get vaccinated. In supporting the Government to protect the public, the Mandatory Provident Fund Schemes Authority has also implemented the VRT arrangement similar to the Government. All staff of the Authority are required to get vaccinated or to undergo effective testing for COVID-19 every two weeks.

The Authority understands that the majority of the MPF trustees and principal intermediaries have introduced various supportive measures to encourage their staff to receive COVID-19 vaccination, such as implementing flexible working hours to accommodate vaccination appointments and providing incentives such as lucky draw and extra days of leave to staff who have taken both doses of the vaccine.

As vaccination is a vital step to win the battle against the virus and the pandemic, boosting a high vaccination rate is a collective effort of the whole community to return the normalcy and bolster economic recovery. To this end, the Authority urges MPF trustees and principal intermediaries to make concerted effort to follow the Government's VRT arrangement. MPF trustees and principal intermediaries are required to strongly encourage all of their staff and subsidiaries intermediaries (SIs) to get vaccinated as soon as practicable, and staff and SIs who have not received a first dose of COVID-19 vaccine by **30 November 2021** or they are unfit to receive vaccination due to medical conditions should undergo effective testing¹ for COVID-19 every two weeks.

Full vaccination is able to protect your colleagues, family members, clients and yourself against COVID-19. As more people receive vaccination, this will help to safeguard public health and resume Hong Kong's socio-economic and normal life in a gradual and orderly manner.

Yours faithfully,

Leo Chu

Chief Operating Officer and Executve Director

¹ The Authority considers that polymerase chain reaction-based nucleic acid testing using combined nasal and throat swabs is an effective test for COVID-19.

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