

社評  
雙語道

# 增加誘因提升幼童接種率

## Increasing incentives to boost inoculation rate of young children

原文

下文摘錄自9月3日香港《文匯報》：  
本港疫情持續，接連有幼童染疫後出現重症甚至危殆，小學和幼稚園接連有班級和學校因為爆疫而停課，而幼童疫苗接種率只有12%，兒科病房又爆滿，情況令人擔心。現時幼童和兒童的疫苗接種率不足以築起強大的保護屏障，政府既要加快擴大「疫苗通行證」的範圍，也要加大宣傳教育力度，大力推展到校接種，務求盡快補強幼童的防疫短板，保障幼童安全健康。  
近期兒童入院個案上升，當中一名15個月大女嬰出現休克情況。醫學界早有共識，接種疫苗是預防重症和死亡的最有效手段，但截至9月初，全港3歲以下幼童的接種率只有12%，5歲至11歲兒童第二針接種率也只有六成，是合資格接種年齡組別中最低。  
3歲以下幼童8月4日才獲納入接種疫苗範圍，至9月初接近一個月，有12,000多人接種，平均每天只有400名幼童接種，進度並不理想。幼童和兒童接種率低有多方面原因，首先，有家長誤以為幼童和兒童染疫病情較輕，反因聽信謠言而擔心接種有副作用，對子女接種態度不積極；其次，個別家長希望子女接種後必泰兒童疫苗，但香港不知何時有供應，讓子女承受巨大染疫風險。  
針對部分家長存有錯誤的接種觀念，政府要加大正確資訊的宣傳教育力度，邀請專家以科學數據、實際

案例提醒家長，幼童和兒童染疫後果可以很嚴重。政府專家顧問劉宇隆形容，本港正與疫情「賽跑」，提升兒童和幼童的疫苗接種率刻不容緩。  
另外，多位專家都強調，無論是科興還是復必泰，兩種疫苗對防重症都有明顯成效。疫情嚴峻，病毒不會等疫苗，家長更不能等疫苗。  
增強誘因也是提升接種率的重要手段。本港12至59歲人群的疫苗接種率近乎100%，這些人群都有不同的外部誘因促使其接種。中學要達到九成接種率才能全日面授，家長、學生都不希望停課而積極接種；成年人絕大部分要上班和參與社會活動，12歲以上人群出入指定場所要出示「疫苗通行證」，相關誘因也足夠促使主動接種。不過，現時小學和幼稚園都維持半日面授課程，不與疫苗接種率掛鉤，「疫苗通行證」也不覆蓋這部分人群，是造成幼童和兒童接種率低的重要原因。  
政府正研究將「疫苗通行證」適用年齡降至5歲以上，認為可藉此減少疫情對兒童的傷害，對此政府應盡快研究細節，早日落實。教育部門有必要將小學和幼稚園全日面授課與疫苗接種率掛鉤，增加幼童和兒童接種的誘因。對於擴大「疫苗通行證」適用範圍、將面授課與接種率掛鉤等，政府有必要盡快公布計劃詳情，包括實施的時間表，讓家長有足夠時間帶子女接種，為幼童提供更有效的保護。



◆3歲以下幼童8月4日才獲納入接種疫苗範圍。

資料圖片

譯文

A successive number of severe and even critical cases have arisen in Hong Kong as the epidemic of COVID-19 continues, and some classes of kindergarten or primary schools, or even the whole school, have been suspended due to the outbreak. Meanwhile, the inoculation rate of children aged 6 months to 3 years is 12% only, and the paediatric wards in hospitals are full, which is worrying. At present, the inoculation rate of children aged 6 months to 11 years is not high enough to build a strong protective barrier, therefore, the Government should expedite the expansion of Vaccine Pass coverage, step up publicity and education, and proactively arrange outreach vaccination at schools, to overcome the disease prevention shortcomings in the shortest time possible and safeguard the health of young children.  
The hospital admission rate of young children has been on the rise, and a 15-month-old girl suffered from shock. A consensus has long been reached among the medical profession that vaccination is the most effective way to prevent severe

cases and death, but until early September, the inoculation rate of children under 3 years old is 12% only, and that of children aged 5 to 11 years is as low as 60%, the lowest among all the age groups eligible for receiving vaccination.  
Children under 3 became eligible for COVID-19 vaccination on 4 August, but as of early September, only more than 12,000 children had received the vaccination, with an average of 400 children per day, an unsatisfactory progress. Reasons behind the low vaccination rate among young children may vary: some parents have the misconception that symptoms of young children contracted of coronavirus are mild and worry about the falsely rumoured strong side effects of inoculation, thus being passive and unmotivated to bring their children for inoculation; others wish their children to receive Comirnaty vaccine which is not yet available in Hong Kong to children under 5 years, exposing their children to considerable risks of contracting the virus.  
To dispel the misconceptions held by some parents, the Government should strengthen the efforts for education and the publicity of correct in-

formation, and invite experts to alert parents, with scientific statistics and real-life cases, that children contracted of coronavirus could face dire consequences. Professor Lau Yu-lung, member of COVID-19 Expert Advisory Panel, referred the current situation in Hong Kong as a race against the epidemic, calling it urgent to boost the vaccine uptake among children aged 6 months to 11 years. Moreover, many experts have restated that both vaccines, CoronaVac or Comirnaty, are highly effective in reducing severe diseases. In a serious epidemic, the virus will not wait for the vaccine, nor should the parents.  
Another important way to boost the vaccination rate is to increase incentives. The vaccination rate of people aged 12 to 59 years is nearly 100%, thanks to various external incentives. Full-day classes are only allowed in secondary schools with 90% of students are triple vaccinated, and parents and students proactively get vaccinated, hoping for no more class suspensions. The majority of adults have to go to work and participate in social activities, and people aged 12 and above are required to present their vacci-

nation passes when entering and leaving specified premises, which incentivised those people to receive the vaccination. However, at present, kindergartens and primary schools maintain half-day face-to-face classes, which is not linked to the vaccination rate, and some of this cohort of people are exempted from the Vaccine Pass, both leading to the low young children vaccination rate.  
The Government is studying to extend the applicable age of the Vaccine Pass to cover children aged 5 to 11, to reduce the harm caused by the epidemic to them. The Government should study the details and implement them as soon as possible. The Education Bureau should link full-day face-to-face classes in kindergartens and primary schools to the vaccination rate, so as to increase the incentive for that cohort of children to get vaccinated. On the extension and linking, the Government should promptly announce the details, including the implementation timeline, to allow parents enough time to bring their children for vaccination, thus providing more effective protection of young children.

## 野餐少帶三文治 罵人腦子缺根筋

恒 大英萃

隔星期二見報

所謂「人蠢無藥醫」！希臘漫畫劇作家 Aristophanes 亦早在公元前已擲下金句：Ignorance can be educated, drunkenness sobered, but stupid lasts forever（無知可治癒，酒醉可清醒，但愚蠢就是一輩子的事），但被豬隊友激得滿腦子只浮現 idiot 或 moron，這有限詞彙就是跟自己鬧氣吧！不說髒話，罵人也可以很有水準。  
甘於當工具人（任勞任怨的「兵」）嗎？要當，也要當個銳利的！I thought the electricity was out but it's just that I did not plug in. Guess I am not the sharpest tool in the shed（原來不是停電，只是我還未接通電源。看來我腦筋不太靈光哦）。當然，十隻手指有長短，工具亦不一定最銳利才管用。Not the sharpest tool in the shed（並非工具棚內最鋒利的工具）這個委婉地說別人傻瓜的說法，有傳是衍生自 sharpest knife in the drawer（抽屜內最鋒利的刀），以形容精英中的精英。相反地，not the sharpest knife in the drawer 就連「平民」都不如，笨蛋是也。其他相似說法亦有：not the brightest bulb in the box（不是箱內最明亮的電燈泡）。燈泡發光在漫畫或卡通中，多代表點子到、靈感現；相反地，不太發亮的電燈泡就是腦袋空空如也。  
不過，有時燈火通明亦不代表聰明起來：The lights are on but nobody is home（燈亮着但沒人在家）！這不單是浪費寶貴的電力能源，更表示腦袋空空的。當遇着沒頭沒腦的回應，或是牛頭不對馬

嘴，就可以語帶無奈地說一句：The lights are on, but nobody is home.

略嫌燈泡或鈍刀還不足以發洩你對大笨蛋的厭惡嗎？試試大型機械吧！升降機如何？The elevator does not go to the top floor，字面上是「電梯上不了樓頂」，可用於感慨身邊有人犯明顯常識錯誤。  
除了工具，以食物作比喻人類不同智慧程度亦普遍。One sandwich short of a picnic，字面上就是野餐時少帶了三文治，實際含義是幽默地指某人腦子少了根筋，做事叫人不能理解：Is he one sandwich short of picnic to have given up a job in a big bank?（他貿然放棄了在大銀行的工作，他腦袋出了什麼問題？）  
有趣的是，這個「X short of Y」公式去形容傻瓜，會隨着不同國家對食物的喜愛而改變。鍾情於飲紅茶、食茶點的英國，除了 one sandwich short of a picnic，亦有 a few crumbs short of a biscuit（一塊餅乾缺少了碎屑）。美國人就對某連鎖快餐店情有獨鍾，所以美式英語就變成 one fry short of a Happy Meal（開心樂園餐內缺少了一條薯條）。  
除了食物，當地文化差異亦反映在「X short of Y」的「傻瓜公式」。澳洲是公認的自然天堂，因此有 a sheep short of a top paddock 或 a few kangaroos loose in the top paddock，直譯是：山頂羊圈裏的羊不見了，或山頂的袋鼠群中走散了幾隻，實際就比喻人最頂端的腦袋不見了。  
智慧，就如金錢一樣 does not grow on trees。如果有人太愛講一些沒深度的話，別勞氣！用這句話堵住他的嘴：Keep talking; someday you'll say something intelligent（繼續多說吧！總有一天，你會說出一些智慧之言）。

## 無所事事易出事 原來魔鬼在搞事？

英 語世界

隔星期二見報

因為疫情，大家都少了聚會和活動，多了在家的時間。在家時，最好還是為自己安排一些事情或活動，好好利用時間，免得空間懶散，無所事事，浪費時間之餘，還可能終日胡思亂想，產生怪念，不慎招致麻煩。中國古書有謂「小人閒居為不善，無所不至」。英文亦有諺語「The devil finds work for the idle hands。」魔鬼會為懶散的人找工作，意思就是無聊沉悶的時候，容易心生歪念，做出壞事。  
形容詞 idle 解作無所事事、無聊、閒置，亦有懶惰、不願工作的意思。形容某人 bone idle，有點像廣東話說的「懶到入骨」，即是非常懶惰。  
During the recession, many workers were idle at home.  
經濟衰退期間，很多工人呆在家中無所事事。  
He is a very clever boy, but he is bone idle.  
這男孩十分聰明，可惜是個懶人精。  
諺語句中的 idle hands 代表無所事事、懶惰、遊手好閒的人，說 The devil finds work for the idle hands（魔鬼替他們找事做），是相信這些人沒有工作或事情佔用他們的時間，會覺得沉悶，容易胡思亂想，腦裏萌生歪念，到頭來四處找麻煩，甚至做出壞事。  
The man is really suspicious; he has been wandering around for days. The devil finds work for the idle hands.  
這男人實在可疑，他在附近徘徊了好幾天。遊手好閒的人，腦裏一定有些歪念。  
The devil finds work for the idle hands. Unemployment can cause many social problems.  
人們無所事事易生歪念。失業會導致許多社會問

題。  
無事之人容易犯事，這種說法其實有點宗教淵源，據說意源自基督教舊約聖經的《箴言》16章27節，大概的意思是「不務正業的人圖謀惡事」。四世紀時聖經學者 St. Jerome 根據《箴言》在其拉丁文著作中寫道：「Engage in some occupation, so that the devil may always find you busy.」（找些事情做，時刻讓魔鬼覺得你很忙）。到了十四世紀，英國著名文學家 Chaucer 在他的代表作《Canterbury Tales》亦提過「... idleness teaches a man to do many evil things.」（懶惰會教人作許多邪惡的事）。這個諺語由此流行起來。  
後來更出現了形式不同的類似用語，其中較常見的有 Idle hands are the devil's workshop / tools / playground.（閒着的人是魔鬼的工場 / 工具 / 遊樂場），都是說沒有寄託、生活沉悶的人容易犯事，成年人也許會歪念叢生，誤入歧途，而小孩子無聊時亦會頑皮起來，鬧事惹禍。這些諺語都是警惕世人要好好利用時間，以免引起不良後果。  
Idle hands are the devil's playground. Parents need to give their children suitable activities during the summer holidays.  
閒着無事，容易闖禍。暑假期間，家長要為子女安排適當活動。  
Many scams are committed by the unemployed. Idle hands are the devil's tools.  
許多詐騙案都是無業遊民所為。遊手好閒的人容易成為魔鬼的工具。  
這些語句並不是叫人不停工作，沒有休息。本意是提醒人們不要過度閒居，要努力工作和學習，令自己有所寄託，不要過着懶散無聊的生活。

◆ 鍾可盈博士  
香港恒生大學英文學系高級講師

香港恒生大學  
THE HANG SENG UNIVERSITY  
OF HONG KONG

◆ Lina CHU  
(linachu88@gmail.com)