

Singapore temporarily ceases use of two influenza vaccines

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MOH and the Health Sciences Authority (HSA) are monitoring the situation closely



The Ministry of Health (MOH) has advised that the use of two influenza vaccines – SKYCellflu Quadrivalent and VaxigripTetra should be temporarily ceased in Singapore.

Singapore has temporarily pulled its backing for these vaccines after the reported deaths of influenza vaccination in South Korea. No deaths associated with influenza vaccination have been reported in Singapore to date. MOH and the Health Sciences Authority (HSA) are monitoring the situation closely.

HSA is in touch with the South Korean authorities for further information as they investigate to determine if the deaths are related to influenza vaccinations. Based on information released by the South Korean health authorities, seven brands of influenza vaccines were administered to the individuals involved in the deaths reported in South Korea. Of the seven brands, two are available in Singapore.

As a precautionary measure, while HSA is assessing the implications of the reported deaths in South Korea, MOH has informed healthcare providers and medical practitioners to temporarily stop the use of these two vaccines. Healthcare providers and medical practitioners may continue to use the two other influenza vaccines that have been brought into Singapore for the Northern Hemisphere 2020/21 influenza season. MOH and HSA will assess the situation as more information becomes available and further advise on the use of the affected vaccines.

Influenza vaccination is generally safe and well-tolerated. Like any medicines, vaccines can cause side effects. MOH and HSA will continue to monitor the situation closely for any concerns related to influenza vaccination and keep members of the public updated on new developments.