ISRCTN21980321 https://doi.org/10.1186/ISRCTN21980321

Promoting seasonal influenza vaccination among community-dwelling older adults

Submission date	Recruitment status	[X] Prospectively registered
20/10/2024	Recruiting	[_] Protocol
Registration date	**Overall study status**	[_] Statistical analysis plan
21/10/2024	Ongoing	[_] Results
Last Edited	**Condition category**	[_] Individual participant data
09/04/2025	Infections and Infestations	[X] Record updated in last year

Plain English summary of protocol

Background and study aims
Older adults aged ≥65 years bear a disproportionate burden of influenza. Although free seasonal influenza vaccination (SIV) is provided, the vaccination rate among community-dwelling older adults in Hong Kong remains suboptimal. This study aims to combine narratives and implementation intentions to improve SIV promotion.

Who can participate?
Senior adults aged ≥ 65 years who currently living in the community, and have not received SIV in the current season or made any appointment for SIV

What does the study involve?
A three-arm study is proposed to examine the effects of using a WhatsApp-based intervention combining narratives and implementation intentions in increasing the uptake of SIV in community-dwelling older adults, compared to two control conditions involving only narrative messages or topic-matched didactic messages.

What are the possible benefits and risks of participating?
1. Benefits: Participants will learn more about influenza prevention and may engage in SIV and prevent themselves from influenza infection as a result. They will receive supermarket coupons as compensation for their participation.

2. Risks: There are no known risks associated with participating in this study. Completing the intervention and the evaluation surveys may cause fatigue among some participants.

Where is the study run from?
This study is managed by the Department of Rehabilitation Sciences of the Hong Kong Polytechnic University.

When is the study starting and how long is it expected to run for?
January 2024 to March 2026

Who is funding the study?
The General Research Fund of the Hong Kong Research Grants Council.

Who is the main contact?
Dr. Meiqi Xin, meiqi.xin@polyu.edu.hk

Contact information

Type(s)
Public, Scientific, Principal Investigator

Contact name
Dr Meiqi Xin

ORCID ID
http://orcid.org/0000-0002-8636-4918

Contact details
ST518, 5/F, Core T, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University
Hong Kong
Hong Kong
0000
+852 27664840
meiqi.xin@polyu.edu.hk

Additional identifiers

EudraCT/CTIS number
Nil known

IRAS number

ClinicalTrials.gov number
Nil known

Secondary identifying numbers
15601623

Study information

Scientific Title
Combining biographical narratives and implementation intentions to promote seasonal influenza vaccination among community-dwelling older adults: a randomized controlled trial

Acronym
SILVER

Study objectives

Hypothesis 1: The BNII Group (an integrated intervention combining biographical narratives and implementation intentions) will have a higher influenza vaccination rate than the BN (a control condition involving only biographical narratives) Group, who will have a higher influenza vaccination rate than the DD Group (a control condition involving only didactic messages).

Hypothesis 2: The BNII and BN Groups will have higher attitudes, injunctive norms, perceived behavioral control, self-efficacy, and behavioral intention than the DD Group.

Hypothesis 3: The efficacy of BNII and BN, relative to DD, will be mediated through reduced resistance to persuasion.

Ethics approval required
Ethics approval required

Ethics approval(s)
Approved 17/10/2024, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University Institutional Review Board (The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Hung Hom, Kowloon, Hong Kong, 0000, Hong Kong; +852 2766 4831; benjamin.yee@polyu.edu.hk), ref: HSEARS20230308010-02

Study design
Three-arm randomized controlled trial

Primary study design
Interventional

Secondary study design
Randomised controlled trial

Study setting(s)
Community

Study type(s)
Prevention

Participant information sheet
Not available in web format, please use contact details to request a participant information sheet

Health condition(s) or problem(s) studied
Prevention of seasonal influenza in community-dwelling older adults

Interventions
Community-dwelling older adults will be randomly allocated to three groups: (1) the BNII Group will receive an integrated intervention comprising biographical narrative messages and a complementary implementation intentions intervention (an intervention condition); (2) the BN Group will receive only biographical narrative messages (a control condition); (3) the DD Group will receive only didactic messages (a control condition). For all three groups, relevant intervention content will be delivered through instant messaging (WhatsApp). The intervention will last for 4-6 weeks.

Intervention Type

Behavioural

Primary outcome measure
The uptake of seasonal influenza vaccination will be measured using a survey three months after the intervention

Secondary outcome measures
Perceptions of seasonal influenza vaccination, including attitudes, injunctive norms, perceived behavioral control, self-efficacy, and behavioral intention, measured using a structured questionnaire at baseline, immediately after the intervention, and three months after the intervention

Overall study start date
01/01/2024

Completion date
31/03/2026

Eligibility

Key inclusion criteria
1. Aged ≥ 65 years
2. Currently living in the community
3. Not received seasonal influenza vaccination (SIV) in the current season or made any appointment for SIV
4. Regularly use a smartphone (at least once a week)
5. Residing in Hong Kong in the future 6 months
6. Being able to read Chinese

Participant type(s)
Resident, Population

Age group
Senior

Lower age limit
65 Years

Sex
Both

Target number of participants
576

Key exclusion criteria
1. Not eligible for SIV according to official guidelines (e.g., a history of severe hypersensitivity to a previous dose of SIV or relevant components)
2. Having taken up SIV annually in the past 3 years
3. Not having the mental or cognitive capacity to take part in the study

Date of first enrolment
24/10/2024

Date of final enrolment
15/11/2025

Locations

Countries of recruitment
Hong Kong

Study participating centre
Department of Rehabilitation Sciences of The Hong Kong Polytechnic University
5/F, Core S, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Hung Hom, Kowloon
Hong Kong
Hong Kong
0000

Sponsor information

Organisation
University Grants Committee

Sponsor details
7/F., Shui On Centre, 6-8 Harbour Road, Wanchai
Hong Kong
Hong Kong
0000
+852 2524 3987
ugc@ugc.edu.hk

Sponsor type
Government

Website
https://www.ugc.edu.hk

ROR
https://ror.org/00djwmt25

Funder(s)

Funder type

Research council

Funder Name
General Research Fund of the Hong Kong Research Grants Council

Results and Publications

Publication and dissemination plan
Planned publication in a peer-reviewed journal

Intention to publish date
30/09/2026

Individual participant data (IPD) sharing plan
The datasets generated during and/or analysed during the current study will be available upon request from Dr. Meiqi XIN (meiqi.xin@polyu.edu.hk)

IPD sharing plan summary
Available on request