

本署檔號 Our Ref. : (6) in DH CDB/8/27/1 Pt.25

22 October 2025

Dear Principal / Person-in-charge,

Prevention of Seasonal Influenza in Schools

Hong Kong is currently in the summer influenza season and there has been a significant increase in influenza-like illness (ILI) outbreaks in schools since September. We would like to draw your attention to the following on preventing the spread of seasonal influenza.

Schools are advised to enhance health surveillance for students, such as measuring body temperature when they enter the school. They should require sick students and staff to stay home until symptoms subside and fever has been absent for at least two days. If students and staff develop ILI symptoms such as fever, sore throat or cough at the school, they should wear a well-fitting surgical mask and seek medical advice promptly.

Wearing mask is also recommended in the following situations:

- when staying in crowded, enclosed or poorly ventilated places;
- when getting into contact with persons with fever or respiratory symptoms; and
- when high-risk persons (e.g. persons with underlying medical conditions or persons who are immunocompromised) staying in public places.

Please refer to the guidelines of “Use Mask Properly”, which can be accessed at: https://www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/use_mask_properly.pdf.

Students and staff should always maintain good personal and hand hygiene. They should wash their hands properly with liquid soap and water whenever their hands are visibly soiled. They can use 70-80% alcohol handrub, which is equally effective, if their hands are not visibly soiled. Please distribute the posters “Clean your hand for at least 20 sec” (Annex 1) to students and staff, and/or display the posters near the washbasin to remind them of the correct handwashing method (https://www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/hhd2025_poster_horizontal.pdf).



Schools are advised to maintain good indoor air circulation. There are two types of ventilation modes, i.e. natural ventilation and mechanical ventilation. If natural ventilation is used, the windows shall be kept open. If mechanical ventilation is used, fresh air supply or air change per hour need to achieve the requirement by switching on the fresh air intake fan/exhaust air fan. Please refer to para. 2.2, 2.3 and 3.1 of “A Supplement on Ventilation” for details:

https://www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/supplement_on_school_ventilation_eng.pdf

Moreover, schools should maintain environment hygiene at all times and ensure that cleaning staff and service contractors use the correct method to dilute bleach for disinfection. Please display the promotional posters “Proper use of bleach, keep you safe and well” (Annex 2) in relevant work areas for the reference of cleaning staff and contractors (https://www.chp.gov.hk/files/png/bleach_dilution_poster.png).

If schools can only arrange the seasonal influenza vaccination school outreach activity in or after December, please issue a notice to appeal parents that, for children with underlying comorbidities or immunocompromising conditions, parents may arrange vaccination for their children at clinics of private doctors enrolled in the Vaccination Subsidy Scheme (<https://apps.hcv.gov.hk/public/en/SPS/Search>).

If schools notice an increase in fever or respiratory illnesses among students or staff, school should report promptly to the Central Notification Office of the Centre for Health Protection (CHP) (Tel: 2477 2772; Fax: 2477 2770; Email: diseases@dh.gov.hk) for prompt epidemiological investigations and appropriate control measures.

For more details about infection control measures on the prevention of infectious diseases, please refer to the “Guidelines on Prevention of Communicable Diseases in Schools / Kindergartens / Kindergartens-cum-Child Care Centres / Child Care Centres” published by the CHP, which can be accessed at:

https://www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/guidelines_on_prevention_of_communicable_diseases_in_schools_kindergartens_kindergartens_cum_child_care-centres_child_are_centres.pdf

Yours faithfully,



(Dr. Albert AU)

For Controller, Centre for Health Protection
Department of Health



Proper use of bleach Keep you safe and well



Tips for preparing diluted bleach solution

-  Ensure good ventilation
-  Put on personal protective equipment e.g. mask, rubber gloves, plastic apron and goggles
-  Use cold water for dilution as hot water decomposes the active ingredients of bleach and renders it ineffective
-  Do not mix with other disinfectants and detergents to avoid chemical reactions
-  Use within 24 hours after preparation and store in cool and shaded place
-  If bleach gets into the eyes, immediately rinse with water for at least 15 minutes and consult a doctor