



中華人民共和國香港特別行政區政府總部教育局

Education Bureau

Government Secretariat, The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
The People's Republic of China

本局檔號 Our Ref: EDB(SDCT)3/PRO/10/1/1

電話 Telephone :

來函檔號 Your Ref. :

傳真 Fax Line :

10 July 2020

To: Supervisors / Principals of all Secondary Schools, Primary Schools, Kindergartens,
Kindergartens cum Child Care Centres and Special Schools

Dear Supervisor / Principal,

Arrangements of Early Commencement of Summer Holiday for All Schools

We appreciate that schools have been working hard to put in place various anti-epidemic measures, including disinfection of school premises, checking of body temperature, wearing of masks, as well as keeping social distancing and other relevant contingency measures since the start of the phased resumption of classes in late May this year. All these measures have ensured the environmental hygiene of schools and enabled us to protect the health and well-being of students. Up to now, there has not been any confirmed cases of infection that happened within schools. This reflects the concerted efforts of schools in guarding against the epidemic has achieved remarkable results.

In view of the exponential growth of local confirmed cases of Coronavirus Disease (COVID-2019) over the past two days and the Government's announcement on further tightening up of social distancing measures with effect from 11 July, as well as parents' concerns and suggestions as reflected by schools, the Education Bureau (EDB), after thorough consideration and consultation with experts, has decided that all secondary schools, primary schools, special schools and kindergartens should advance the summer holiday from 13 July (i.e., next Monday). For schools having important examinations to be held, they can adjust the arrangements in accordance with their school-based circumstances. The details of the arrangements are set out below:

Primary School

As the Primary Five Internal Assessment has an impact on the Secondary School

Places Allocation, if schools have scheduled the assessment to be held within next week (i.e., 13 to 17 July), schools may still choose to proceed with the scheduled assessment and commence the summer holiday once the assessment is completed. On the other hand, if schools postpone the assessment to September in light of the latest epidemic development, the deadline for submission of assessment results to the EDB will be extended to 20 October, and the schools concerned are required to contact the School Places Allocation Section of the EDB on or before 20 July.

Secondary School

Considering that students need to select subjects and prepare for public examinations, S3 to S5 students can start the summer holiday when they have finished the examinations scheduled between 13 to 17 July.

Regarding the Pre-Secondary One Hong Kong Attainment Test, the EDB has earlier announced that the sampling arrangement of the test is cancelled this year. Hence, it is at the schools' entire discretion to decide whether to conduct the test or not. If schools opt to do so, the test will be conducted on 14 July as scheduled. In light of the latest epidemic development, if any secondary school decides not to conduct the test, they should inform the Research and Test Development Section of the EDB by noon of 13 July the latest.

Examination Arrangements

When conducting examinations, schools should put in place appropriate anti-epidemic measures, including keeping appropriate social distance amongst people, wearing of masks, checking of body temperature, avoiding crowd gathering, etc. Examinations should only be conducted on a half-day basis. Schools can make reference to the relevant guidelines issued by the Centre for Health Protection (CHP) and follow as far as possible the guidelines set out for the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination (HKDSE) issued by the Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority (HKEAA). For details of examination arrangements, please refer to:

http://www.hkeaa.edu.hk/DocLibrary/Media/PR/Press_release_HKDSE_latest_exam_and_precautionary_measures_eng_updated_20200415.pdf

Supplementary Lessons during the Summer Holiday

In considering the arrangement of any supplementary lessons to be held during the summer holiday, schools can take into account the learning progress of S5 students and arrange online lessons or classroom learning at school accordingly. However, when arranging S5 to return to schools for supplementary lessons, schools should premise on the principle of avoiding crowd gathering, maximising the use of space in classrooms and ensuring a proper physical distance among students. For the sake of minimising the risk of infection, all students should only be allowed to stay at most half-day at school, and they should not be allowed to have lunch inside the school premises. Schools should make reference to the health advice issued by the CHP, and put in place all the necessary preventive measures to conduct the learning activities. Schools

should inform parents of all such arrangements.

Cross-boundary students (CBS)

S3 to S5 Cross-Boundary Students (CBS) have resumed classes since mid-June, and they can follow the arrangements of local students to attend the above-mentioned examinations and supplementary lessons. However, please be reminded that the existing border arrangements and quarantine exemption in the current school year will expire on the last school day as per the schools' original schedule. In any case, S5 CBS will only be permitted to attend supplementary lessons up to the last school day of the original schedule or 31 July (whichever is earlier).

Other Related Matters

If individual parents have concerns over the arrangements of examinations and supplementary lessons, they can keep their children at home. Schools are advised to be flexible in handling students' leave applications. As schools and teachers may not yet be fully prepared for the students to commence summer holiday, schools may still have miscellaneous matters requiring students to complete on campus. If schools are not able to use online learning platform to handle such matters, for example, to distribute summer holiday assignments, schools can arrange students to come back by batches at a later stage. In this connection, schools should strictly put in place all the anti-epidemic preventive measures to safeguard the health and well-being of teachers and students. Besides, on all the originally scheduled school days (i.e. scheduled before the early commencement of summer holiday), schools should remain open and properly arrange staff to be on duty to take care of students who have to go back to school or student residence because of the lack of carers at home or other reasons.

We are mindful that some schools and kindergartens will commence the new school year in August. As such, the EDB will keep in close contact with the Department of Health, and announce the relevant arrangements for the coming school year in due course. For enquiries, please contact your respective Senior School Development Officers / Senior Services Officers.

Yours sincerely,



(Dr Verena LAU)

for Secretary for Education