



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

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14 July 2020

To: Supervisors / Principals of all Secondary Schools, Primary Schools, Kindergartens, Kindergartens cum Child Care Centres, Special Schools and Schools Offering Non-Formal Curriculum (including Tutorial Schools)

Dear Supervisor / Principal,

**Early Commencement of Summer Holiday
Education Bureau's Further Tightening Up of
Anti-epidemic Arrangements**

The Education Bureau announced on 10 July that all secondary schools, primary schools, special schools and kindergartens in Hong Kong would commence their summer holiday early, starting 13 July. Class levels with important examinations to hold may complete them within this week. Regarding other miscellaneous issues that have to be completed on campus, schools may also arrange students to come back by batches.

However, in the last few days there were signs of further proliferation of the epidemic in Hong Kong. The number of confirmed cases continued to increase. To further protect the health and safety of students, teaching and school staff as well as the general public, after thorough consideration and consultation with experts, the Education Bureau has decided to further tighten up measures including: (i) schools should adopt contingency measures to complete all examinations within two to three days as far as possible so as to commence summer vacation at the earliest; and (ii) apart from the aforementioned examinations, schools should suspend all on-campus activities for two weeks, including make-up classes and extra-curricular activities at all levels from 15 July (Wednesday) to 28 July (Tuesday). Unless absolutely necessary, students should not go back to school. The aforementioned measures are also applicable to the face-to-face teaching activities of Schools Offering Non-Formal Curriculum (including Tutorial Schools).

During the days before the originally scheduled commencement of summer vacation, schools should keep their campuses and student residences open and look after students who have a need to go back. In conducting any examinations on campus as mentioned above, schools should adopt adequate health protection measures, such as maintaining adequate separation amongst seats, requiring staff and students to wear masks, measuring body temperature, and avoiding crowd gathering. In addition, schools can only conduct half-day examinations.

Having experienced months of class suspension, and after much endurance and devotion of efforts, students could finally resume classes by phases at the end of May. However, after just a brief period of schooling, summer holiday has to commence early. Teachers and students will understandably be disappointed and feel helpless. Nevertheless, it is difficult to predict the development of the epidemic. We hope that students could take a chance to relax, remain healthy physically and mentally, as well as have some learning activities at home during the summer holiday. When the epidemic subsides, we shall welcome the new school year together. We expect schools to provide necessary academic and emotional support to students during the period.

Some schools' and kindergartens' new school year will commence in August. I understand that schools, parents and students must be keen to confirm their new school schedules in order to make advance preparation. The Education Bureau will maintain close liaison with health experts and the school sector and, taking into account the development of the epidemic, finalise and announce the arrangements for the new school year as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Verena', with a large, sweeping flourish above it.

(Dr Verena LAU)
for Secretary for Education