



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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20 November 2020

To: Supervisors / Principals of All Primary Schools, Special Schools, Kindergartens and Kindergarten-cum-Child Care Centres

Dear Supervisor / Principal,

**Suspension of face-to-face classes at Primary 1 to Primary 3 and  
Extension of face-to-face classes suspension at Kindergartens and  
Kindergartens-Cum-Child Care Centres**

In the light of the latest situation of the COVID-19 epidemic and the recent outbreak of upper respiratory tract infections (URTI) in schools, the Government announced today that starting from next Monday (23 November 2020), face-to-face classes and all school activities of Primary 1 to Primary 3 of all primary schools (including schools offering non-local curriculum), and primary sections of special schools, would be suspended until 6 December 2020 (Sunday).

The Government has earlier announced that kindergartens and kindergartens-cum-child care centres would suspend face-to-face classes and all school activities for two weeks starting from 14 November 2020 (Saturday) to 27 November 2020 (Friday). In view of the latest situation, all kindergartens and kindergartens-cum-child care centres will continue to suspend face-to-face classes and all school activities up to 6 December 2020 (Sunday).

As for Primary 4 to Primary 6 of primary schools and all levels of secondary schools (including special schools and schools offering non-local curriculum), schools should strictly observe all the health protection measures when conducting face-to-face classes and school activities including maintaining appropriate social distances, checking of body temperatures of teachers and students upon entry into school premises, as well as wearing of masks at all times

inside the school premises, etc., so as to safeguard the health and well-being of teachers and students. We urge schools to strictly adhere to the guidelines “Health Protection Measures” issued by the EDB and “Health Advice to Schools for the Prevention of COVID-19” issued by the Centre of Health Protection (CHP). In view of the worsening situation of the epidemic, schools are requested not to arrange activities which require students to take off their masks.

For schools that have currently suspended face-to-face classes in accordance with the advice from the CHP, for Primary 4 to Primary 6 or the specified levels of secondary schools, they will resume classes after the suspension period. For classes of Primary 1 to Primary 3, the schools concerned should continue to suspend face-to-face classes up to 6 December 2020.

During the face-to-face class suspension period, schools should make the following administrative arrangements:

- (i) Schools should remain open to take care of those students who have to go back to schools because of the lack of carers at home, and schools should maintain adequate social distances amongst students. Schools should arrange staff to be on duty to handle school affairs, answer parents’ enquiries and take care of those students who have returned to schools.
- (ii) For schools with face-to-face classes suspended, they should flexibly deploy various learning modes to sustain students’ learning at home. For details, see the following website (<https://www.edb.gov.hk/en/edu-system/primary-secondary/applicable-to-primary-secondary/it-in-edu/flipped.html>). Kindergartens should refrain children from prolonged use of digital screen gadgets. Children should be given appropriate rest for their eyes when using these gadgets. Hence, as a matter of principle, e-learning in the form of real-time online teaching is not suitable for kindergartens.
- (iii) Schools should activate the established school-based contingency plans (refer to EDBC No. 9/2015 for details), adopt contingency measures during suspension of face-to-face classes and make respective arrangements (including adjustments to activities inside and outside schools, school bus services, etc.), and should keep close contact with the parents, etc.
- (iv) Schools should ensure the environmental hygiene of the school premises. If school staff or students are feeling unwell (even the symptoms are very mild), they must not return to school and should seek medical advice promptly to receive appropriate diagnoses and treatments.

- (v) In case of any URTI or confirmed case of COVID-19 being reported, schools must follow the advice of the CHP to put in place the related epidemic preventive measures, including suspending the affected classes concerned during the specified periods.

Parents should take precautionary measures of influenza and pay close attention to the health conditions of their children. They should avoid bringing their children to crowded places with poor ventilation. Students should maintain a balanced diet, exercise regularly, and take adequate rest in order to strengthen their immunity. If students are feeling unwell (even if the symptoms are very mild), they must not return to schools and should seek medical advice promptly to receive appropriate diagnoses and treatments.

The Government will closely monitor the development of the epidemic and maintain close liaison with the school sector. For enquiries, please contact the respective Senior School Development Officers / Senior Services Officers (Joint Office for Kindergartens and Child Care Centres).

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Verena LAU', with a large, sweeping flourish on the left side.

(Dr Verena LAU)  
for Secretary for Education