



# 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 :

21 December 2020

To: Supervisors / Principals of All Secondary Schools, Primary Schools, Special Schools, Schools offering Non-Local Curriculum, Kindergartens and Kindergarten-cum-Child Care Centres and Private Schools offering Non-Formal Curriculum

Dear Supervisor / Principal,

## **Arrangements of Further Suspension of Face-to-Face Classes for All Schools**

Since the situation of COVID-19 is still very severe, the Government needs to take stringent measures to cope with the epidemic. The Education Bureau (EDB) has announced that all kindergartens as well as primary and secondary schools (including special schools and schools offering non-local curriculum) will further suspend face-to-face classes and school activities after the end of the scheduled Christmas holidays until 10 January 2021. For private schools offering non-formal curriculum (commonly known as “tutorial schools”), face-to-face classes and school activities of all levels will also be suspended until 10 January 2021.

## **Christmas Holiday Arrangements**

The EDB strongly advocates that school staff and students should avoid going out, having crowd gatherings and social contacts as well as dining out during the Christmas holidays. Given that the epidemic situation of COVID-19 remains severe around the world, school staff and students should avoid all non-essential travel outside Hong Kong. In this connection, we remind schools that they should explain their school-based arrangements regarding overseas travel during the school Christmas holidays to their school staff (including the situation if a school staff member is unable to return to Hong Kong to perform duties after the scheduled Christmas holidays). Such arrangements should be in compliance with the Education Ordinance, Education Regulation, Employment Ordinance and the provisions and procedures set out in the Codes of Aid as well as the guidelines issued by the EDB.

## Studying and Examinations Arrangements

After the school Christmas holidays, during the period of suspension of face-to-face classes and school activities, schools should continue to adopt diversified modes of teaching to facilitate students to continue learning at home. Besides, similar to the arrangements before the Christmas holidays, schools can consider arranging Primary 6 students to return to schools on a need basis to take the internal assessments for the purpose of Secondary School Places Allocation, and arranging Secondary 6 classes or classes participating in this academic year's overseas public examinations to return to schools to attend lessons to prepare for the examinations or take internal examinations at schools. The examinations or face-to-face classes should be conducted on a half-day basis. The upper limit for students to return to a school for face-to-face classes and examinations should be capped at one sixth of the school's maximum permitted capacity.

Schools are once again reminded that they must strictly adhere to all the related health protection measures, including requiring all personnel to wear masks within the school premises all the time, maintaining appropriate social distances, checking of body temperatures of students and teachers upon entry into the school premises, in order to safeguard the health and well-being of students and teachers. Schools should continue to ensure a clean and hygienic environment. We urge schools to strictly adhere to the guidelines "Health Protection Measures for Schools" issued by the EDB and "Health Advice to Schools for the Prevention of COVID-19" issued by the Centre of Health Protection.

Regarding the examination and administrative arrangements during suspension of face-to-face classes, schools can make reference to the below EDB's letter issued to all schools on 30 November 2020:

[https://www.edb.gov.hk/attachment/en/sch-admin/admin/about-sch/diseases-prevention/edb\\_20201130\\_eng.pdf](https://www.edb.gov.hk/attachment/en/sch-admin/admin/about-sch/diseases-prevention/edb_20201130_eng.pdf)

The EDB will continue to closely monitor the epidemic's development and take into account professional advice from health experts as well as discuss with the school sector. We will review the aforementioned arrangements and related measures timely, and make and announce adjustments as appropriate.

Yours sincerely,



(Dr Verena LAU)

for Secretary for Education