



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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31 December 2021

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,

**COVID-19 Vaccination Programme
Further Expansion of Vaccination Arrangements**

The Government announced on 24 December 2021 that the COVID-19 Vaccination Programme will be further expanded starting from 1 January 2022. The arrangements include all eligible persons who have received two doses of the BioNTech vaccine with the second dose received six months ago can receive the third dose of vaccine; persons aged 12 to 17 can make reservations for and receive the second dose of the BioNTech vaccine at least 12 weeks after the first dose of the BioNTech vaccine.

The Education Bureau (EDB) actively encourages all persons who are aged 18 or above to receive the third dose of vaccine and the students aged 12 to 17 to receive the second dose of vaccine. To facilitate vaccination of students through arrangements made by schools, the Civil Service Bureau (CSB) has updated the vaccination arrangements for schools (including primary and secondary schools). For details, please refer to the related information issued by the CSB (<https://www.edb.gov.hk/en/sch-admin/admin/about-sch/diseases-prevention/early-vaccination.html>). Schools should adequately communicate with their stakeholders in accordance with the school-based mechanism and encourage teachers and school staff, students and parents to receive vaccination, estimate the

approximate number of participants and liaise early with the CSB to make appropriate arrangements. The vaccination arrangements for students in special schools will be announced separately.

Arrangements for Whole-Day Face-to-Face Classes

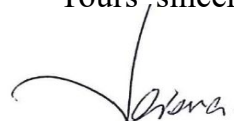
The current arrangements for whole-day face-to-face classes at this stage still continue. Schools should refer to the letter issued by the EDB on 26 November 2021 for details (https://edb.gov.hk/attachment/en/sch-admin/admin/about-sch/diseases-prevention/edb_20211126_eng.pdf). The EDB will continuously monitor the development of the epidemic in order to review the class arrangements and relevant anti-epidemic measures in a timely manner. We will make timely announcement to schools should there be any new arrangements.

Health and Anti-Epidemic Measures

Schools should continue to strictly implement all the anti-epidemic measures as stipulated in the “Health Protection Measures for Schools” issued by the EDB and the “Health Advice to Schools for the Prevention of COVID-19” issued by the Centre for Health Protection (CHP). With regard to the school activity arrangements, we reiterate that according to the advice of CHP, gatherings and social contacts should be minimised during the prevalence of COVID-19. Unless schools have resumed whole-day face-to-face classes, schools at this stage should not organise mass events (including exhibitions, sports days and swimming galas). That said, if a school considers that it is essential to organise small-scale activities within or outside school campuses, it must strictly observe the anti-epidemic measures. When schools organise parents days, speech days, anniversary celebration events, school performances, etc., schools should restrict the form of activities and number of participants. The above-mentioned activities should be conducted through seminars with seating arranged in a face-to-back setting. Schools should shorten the time of the events as far as possible, avoid interactive activities, organising campus visits and exhibitions, and follow the requirements of the venues or related stipulations in EDB’s guidelines (including imposing a limit on the maximum number of participants entering the venue).

Vaccination is a vital step in the fight against the virus and the epidemic. We encourage teachers and school staff, students and parents to continue to get vaccinated proactively. For enquiries, please contact your respective Senior School Development Officers or Senior Service Officers.

Yours sincerely,



(Dr Verena LAU)

for Secretary for Education