



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(5)

電話 Telephone:

來函檔號 Your Ref.:

傳真 Fax Line:

20 January 2022

To: Supervisors / Principals of all Secondary Schools, Special Schools, Schools offering Non-Local Curriculum, and Private Schools offering Non-Formal Curriculum

Dear Supervisor / Principal,

Suspension of Face-to-face classes of Secondary schools

The epidemic situation is getting severe recently. There have been a number of confirmed cases with unknown sources in Hong Kong. Invisible transmission is noted in the community. There have also been confirmed cases or preliminary confirmed cases identified in schools. Teachers and students are subject to compulsory testing and even put under quarantine. In this regard, the Education Bureau (EDB) announced today that all secondary schools (including secondary section of special schools and schools offering non-local curriculum) in Hong Kong should suspend face-to-face classes and all on-campus activities (including cancellation or postponement of examinations conducted within school premises and other on-campus activities, with the exception for the class levels of students sitting for the public examinations this year) on or before 24 January 2022 until the schools' Chinese New Year holidays. Private schools offering non-formal curriculum (commonly known as "tutorial schools") should suspend face-to-face classes of all class levels until 7 February 2022.

During the suspension of face-to-face classes, all secondary schools should make the following administrative arrangements:

- (i) schools and boarding sections (applicable to special schools) should remain open to look after 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 and ensure the environmental hygiene of the school

campuses. Schools should arrange staff to be on duty to handle school affairs and answer parents' enquiries;

- (ii) during the period of suspension of face-to-face classes, schools should flexibly deploy various teaching modes and provide respective support 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>);
- (iii) with stringent anti-epidemic measures put in place, schools can arrange secondary six students to return to schools for essential learning and assessment activities (for example, school based assessment and mock examinations, etc.) for no more than half a day. This arrangement also applies to the level of students of schools offering non-local curriculum and sitting for public examinations this year. For other class levels, schools should cancel or postpone the on-campus examinations or other activities held in school premises;
- (iv) schools should, in accordance with individual circumstances, activate the established school-based contingency plans (refer to EDBC No. 9/2015 for details), adopt contingency measures and make respective arrangements (including adjustments to activities inside and outside schools, school bus services, etc.) during suspension of face-to-face classes, and should keep close contact with the parents, etc.; and
- (v) if teachers, 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 so as to receive appropriate diagnoses and treatments.

Schools should remind parents to take epidemic preventive measures and pay close attention to the health conditions of their children. Students should avoid going to crowded places with poor ventilation. They should maintain a balanced diet, exercise regularly, and take adequate rest in order to strengthen their immunity. During the period of face-to-face class suspension, schools should continue to maintain communication with parents and students (for instance, schools can make phone calls to students as appropriate) to show care for the learning and emotional needs of the students and render appropriate assistance to parents. Schools should also keep the school campuses clean and hygienic all the time. Schools are required to continue to strictly observe the health 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."

Schools are one of the key members of our community, and we need your assistance to join hands with other sectors in the fight against the epidemic. We once again urge teachers and school staff, students and parents to get vaccinated as early as possible and hence construct a more effective protective barrier for both schools and the

community. The EDB will closely monitor the situation, take into account the advice from the health experts, and review the related measures in a timely manner.

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', with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the left and then curves back under the name.

(Dr Verena LAU)
for Secretary for Education