



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(I) ISP/1/1/96

電話 Telephone:

來函檔號 Your Ref.:

傳真 Fax Line:

11 April 2022

To: Supervisors / Principals of All Private Schools Solely Offering Non-local Curriculum

Dear Supervisor / Principal,

Arrangements for Resumption of Face-to-face Classes after the Easter Holidays

This letter informs international schools and other private schools solely offering non-local curriculum of the detailed arrangements of resumption of face-to-face classes after the Easter Holidays.

Face-to-face class arrangements

In light of the latest development of the COVID-19 epidemic situation, all schools in Hong Kong are allowed to resume face-to-face classes in an orderly and phased manner after the Easter Holidays as originally planned. Whilst local secondary schools whose premises will be used as examination centres for the core subjects of Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education (HKDSE) Examination could only resume face-to-face classes after the concerned HKDSE examinations, international schools and other private schools offering non-local curriculum (both primary and secondary schools alike) may resume face-to-face classes on 19 April 2022 the earliest. On the other hand, acknowledging that some schools may wish to adopt a phased resumption schedule to take better care of their students on return to schools, we provide schools with the flexibility to make school-based decision to resume classes in two phases (e.g. with senior levels resuming face-to-face classes first) by 3 May 2022 the latest if they so wish. Schools must continue

to arrange online classes for class levels that have yet to resume face-to-face classes during the period up to 3 May.

The above-mentioned face-to-face classes will, in principle, remain on a half-day basis to reduce the risk of viral spread during lunch. Nevertheless, we are aware that international schools and other private schools offering non-local curriculum generally have more usable space and facilities in their school premises, and their class and timetable arrangements are different from those of local schools. This has provided more room and flexibility for such schools to implement necessary social distancing measures (including staggered lunch hours) for lunch arrangements. Also, as the school calendars of international schools and other private schools offering non-local curriculum finish much earlier than their local counterparts especially in this school year in which there was a special holiday arrangement in March and April for local schools, we noted a strong demand from the non-local school sector to resume full-day schooling the earliest possible so that students could have more on-campus learning experiences in this school year. After thoroughly assessing the risk, the Government has decided to continue allowing flexibility to those private schools offering non-local curriculum which are able to fulfill the stipulated requirements to have full-day classes. Specifically, schools with approval to run full-day sessions before the Chinese New Year (CNY) holidays when face-to-face classes were allowed and do not have changes to the lunch arrangements as approved by the Education Bureau (EDB) before may continue to arrange full-day classes for their students. Schools should keep their respective Senior School Development Officers/Senior Services Officers informed of their arrangements upon class resumption. They are reminded to observe the relevant guidelines and put in place the health precautionary measures properly.

For those with approval to run full-day sessions before the CNY holidays but have updates to the lunch arrangements (e.g. levels / groups of students arranged for full-day sessions are different) or those which have not obtained such approval before but would like to do so for this round, they shall submit their lunch arrangement plans (or revised plans) to their respective Regional Education Offices by email. Reference should be made to Annex 1 to EDB's letter issued on 31 August 2020 (https://edb.gov.hk/attachment/en/sch-admin/admin/about-sch/diseases-prevention/edb_20200831b_eng.pdf) in drawing up the plans.

We would also like to take the opportunity to remind you that it is still a general rule that schools should arrange students to have lunch at the canteen or designated area(s) on campus but not classrooms. That said,

relaxation may be allowed for students to have lunch in classrooms only when the following conditions are met –

- (a) all teachers and school staff directly employed by schools (including teaching and non-teaching staff) should have received the second dose of vaccination for more than 14 days; and
- (b) 90% or more of the total number of students of the school eligible to receive vaccination have received the second dose of vaccination for more than 14 days, then all students may be allowed to have lunch in their classrooms; or
- (c) 90% or more of students of a particular class level eligible to receive vaccination have received the second dose of vaccination for more than 14 days, students in that particular class level may be allowed to have lunch in their classrooms. The rest of the students should continue to have lunch at canteen or designated area(s).

Those students who are unfit for the vaccination with medical proofs or with previous COVID-19 infection which render them unable to be vaccinated¹ or those who are not in Hong Kong will not be counted towards the total number of student population eligible to receive vaccination.

Extra-curricular activities at school

Since students who have been vaccinated will have a more effective protective barrier, such students will be allowed to participate in more non-academic extra-curricular activities outside classes. If individual students have received the second dose of vaccination for more than 14 days, schools may arrange these students to stay at school after lessons for non-academic extra-curricular activities (e.g. music, sports activities, and school team training). These students may also participate in some activities without wearing masks (e.g. playing wind instruments, “contact” sports such as footballs and basketballs, etc.) at school (including both in-class and after-class activities).

¹ This refers to persons recovered from COVID-19 with less than one month.

Undergoing Regular Rapid-Antigen Test (RAT)

All teachers, school staff and students are required to complete a RAT² each day before returning to school. In general, RAT should be conducted in the morning and only those with a negative result are allowed to return to schools for work/lessons. Students and staff tested positive should not return to school and inform the school of their positive results as soon as possible and stay at home. They should also report to the Department of Health as soon as possible and within 24 hours via the “Declaration System for individuals tested positive for COVID-19 using Rapid Antigen Test” (<https://www.chp.gov.hk/ratp/>).

Schools are required to collect positive results under RAT of all teachers, school staff and students under their school-based mechanisms and report the positive cases (if any) through the Centre for Health Protection (CHP)’s dedicated website (<https://www.idea.gov.hk/chp-cdb/SCHOOL>) before 10:00 a.m. daily (2:00 p.m. daily for PM schools). Even if there is no case on that day, schools should also report to confirm.

Parents are required to report the test results in accordance with the schools’ instructions in order to allow the students to attend school. Schools may conduct spot checks and ask the students concerned to re-test as appropriate. Schools may consider assisting students to conduct the tests at school (e.g. by giving a student a RAT test kit and ask the student to conduct the test by himself/herself, or having a school staff to assist the student to complete the test) with prior consent of the parents. If a test cannot be completed on time, the concerned student cannot have lessons. The school should inform the concerned parents to make arrangements for the students’ departure as soon as possible.

Handling of confirmed cases and close contacts in schools

Under the latest arrangement, CHP will review the reports from the schools. If 5% or more of the total number of teachers, school staff and students in a school or 10% or more of students in a particular class report a positive result of COVID-19 (by RAT or other recognised tests) on the same school day (only new cases on a particular school day will be counted), CHP will look into the cases and consider appropriate follow-up measures, including the need to suspend classes, conduct thorough disinfection and improve ventilation, having regard to the situation of the school concerned.

² For those recovered from COVID-19 and do not have symptoms, they are not required to be tested within three months from the date of the recovery.

Unless otherwise advised by CHP, schools with sporadic cases could continue classes with proper anti-epidemic measures duly put in place.

In general, schools are not required to suspend classes for cases of close contacts. Close contacts are in general defined as household members of confirmed cases. With proper anti-epidemic measures duly put in place, teachers, school staff and students with previous contact with infected persons in a school context normally will not be regarded as close contacts.

The above updated arrangement could help safeguard the health of staff and students returning to schools, and facilitate CHP to assess the risk more precisely for monitoring and follow-up on the infection situation in schools, thereby minimising the chance of frequent school closures as far as possible and enabling the students to continue their learning activities at schools without disruption. The Government will consider updating the relevant arrangements after reviewing the development of the epidemic situation in the latter half of May.

Arrangements for “Vaccine Pass”

“Vaccine Pass” arrangements commenced in all schools on 24 February 2022, and are applicable to all teaching and non-teaching staff, persons providing on-campus services and visitors. The Government announced on 20 March 2022 updated vaccination arrangements for “Vaccine Pass” (including requirement to receive the third dose of vaccine). Schools should comply with the updated requirements and make necessary arrangements. For details, please refer to [Annex](#).

The above “Vaccine Pass” arrangements are not applicable to a school’s own students, children under 12 years old, parents/guardians accompanying their children to receive vaccination or planning to receive vaccination in person on school campus, and visitors participating activities as students³.

³ Visitors participating in activities as students include attending classes, admission interviews, inter-school competitions, but do not include using sports facilities on school campuses, attending interest classes, and visiting school in open days as general public.

Arrangements for students with other needs

Some schools continue to remain open during holidays to take care of the needs of the students; and even if schools have yet to fully resume face-to-face classes after the holidays, the school premises should remain open. In order to further protect the health and safety of teachers and school staff as well as students (especially boarders), the following individual groups of students must be vaccinated. The specific requirements are as follows -

- (a) secondary schools: students who need to go back to school outside face-to-face class time should receive two doses of vaccine for more than 14 days;
- (b) primary schools: students who need to go back to school to be taken care of should receive one dose of vaccine (and for more than 14 days by 15 May 2022) and the second dose of vaccine in accordance with the relevant schedule⁴; and
- (c) boarding sections: boarders residing in the boarding sections of schools (including special schools) under EDB should receive one dose of vaccination for more than 14 days on or before 15 May 2022 and receive two doses of the vaccine in accordance with the relevant schedule⁵.

Those who are unfit for the vaccination with medical proofs or with previous COVID-19 which render them unable to be vaccinated will not be subject to the above restrictions.

Schools should properly register and maintain records of student vaccinations and the list of students who are medically certified to be unfit for vaccination, and keep track of the latest announcements by the Government and EDB to inform all stakeholders (including all teachers, school staff, school bus operators, school tuck shop operators, parents, nannies and volunteers, etc.) of the latest arrangements in a timely manner.

⁴ Students received the first dose of vaccine should receive the second dose of vaccine within three months.

⁵ Students received the first dose of vaccine should receive the second dose of vaccine within three months.

Enhancement of ventilation facilities

CHP has promulgated the “Supplement to Ventilation” for schools, and schools should refer to it and comply with the relevant guidelines. For details, please refer to the following webpage : https://www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/supplement_on_school_ventilation_eng.pdf. EDB issued a letter to private primary and secondary schools on 1 March 2022 to advise them to inspect their ventilation facilities and conduct enhancement works as appropriate. Private schools are reminded to take timely follow-up actions.

Health protection measures for schools

Schools should continue to strictly put in place the various anti-epidemic measures stipulated in the “Health Protection Measures for Schools” issued by EDB and the “Health Advice to Schools for the Prevention of COVID-19” issued by CHP, including having their personnel wearing masks all the time within school campuses, maintaining appropriate social distances, and measuring temperatures of teachers and students at school entrances, in order to safeguard the health of teachers and students. Schools should also always keep the school environment clean and hygienic. We will soon issue an updated version of the “Health Protection Measures for Schools” for school’s reference. We trust that schools would make timely preparation by conducting thorough cleansing and disinfection before resumption of face-to-face classes.

Vaccination is the most effective way to protect against COVID-19 and can reduce the risk of severe illness and death. We strongly urge schools to race against time to encourage and assist parents to arrange their children to receive vaccines, and make full use of the various measures offered by the Government to arrange vaccination for their students.

If schools have any enquiries on the above arrangements or need any assistance regarding vaccination arrangements, please contact the respective Senior School Development Officers / Senior Services Officers.

Yours sincerely,



(Philip HAR)

for Secretary for Education

Vaccination Requirements under “Vaccine Pass”

(A) All teachers and school staff directly employed by schools

On or before 24 February 2022	On or before 21 April 2022	From 31 May 2022 onwards
First dose	Second dose	i. Second dose, if within 5 months from second dose; ii. Third dose, if after 5 months from second dose

** Please note: The arrangement for “Vaccine Pass” for all teachers and school staff directly employed by the schools are different from those for other persons entering the school premises.*

(B) For other persons entering the school premises, they should follow the Government’s latest arrangements for other premises. For details, please refer to the website <https://www.coronavirus.gov.hk/eng/vaccine-pass.html>. The version of 20 March is attached below for reference.



Table 1:
Dosage Schedule for Vaccine Pass ^[Note 1]

Implementation Date/ Category of Persons	From 20 March to 29 April 2022	From 30 April to 30 May 2022	From 31 May 2022 onwards
(A) Persons aged 18 or above ^[Note 2]	1 st dose	2 nd dose	(i) 2 nd dose, if within 6 months from 2 nd dose (ii) 3 rd dose, if after 6 months from 2 nd dose
(B) Persons aged 12 to 17 ^[Note 3]	1 st dose	(i) 1 st dose, if within 6 months from 1 st dose (ii) 2 nd dose, if after 6 months from 1 st dose	(i) 2 nd dose, if within 6 months from 2 nd dose (ii) 3 rd dose, if after 6 months from 2 nd dose
(C1) Recovered persons aged 12 or above within 6 months from recovery ^[Note 4]	No additional dose required		
(C2) Recovered persons aged 12 or above ^[Note 5] who had received 2 nd or 3 rd dose before COVID-19 infection ^[Note 5]	No additional dose required		
(C3) Recovered persons aged 12 or above after 6 months from recovery ^[Note 4]	(i) Not vaccinated before COVID-19 infection ^[Note 5]	1 st dose	1 st dose if within 6 months from 1 st dose 2 nd dose if after 6 months from 1 st dose * 2 nd dose not required for a person aged 12-17 who took Comirnaty (BioNTech) as 1 st dose
	(ii) Received 1 st dose before COVID-19 infection ^[Note 5]	No additional dose required	2 nd dose * 2 nd dose not required for a person aged 12-17 who took Comirnaty (BioNTech) as 1 st dose

Note:

- For those who have only received the CoronaVac (Sinovac) or the Comirnaty (BioNTech) vaccines outside Hong Kong, their eligibility for Vaccine Pass should follow the requirements in the above Annex. In other cases, a person who received a "full course" COVID-19 vaccination outside Hong Kong will be deemed to have fulfilled the requirement for the 2nd dose, provided that the vaccine is on the list of recognised vaccines ("the List") on the Government's COVID-19 Thematic Website (https://www.coronavirus.gov.hk/pdf/List_of_recognised_covid19_vaccines.pdf), and the person has received the "dose(s) required" stipulated under the List. For any 2nd or 3rd dose received by the person in Hong Kong, eligibility for Vaccine Pass will be determined accordingly. A person who has received the Anhui Zhifei Longcom Biopharmaceutical, Bharat Biotech, the Gamaleya National Center of Epidemiology and Microbiology or Novavax (i.e. Nuvaxovid/Covovax) vaccines will be deemed to have completed the third dose under the Vaccine Pass requirements provided that the "dose(s) required" stipulated under the List has been satisfied.
- For a person who will turn 18, he/she will be given a 3-month window, counting from his/her 18th birthday, during which his/her eligibility will follow the category applicable to persons aged 12 to 17, and thereafter his/her eligibility will follow the category applicable to persons aged 18 or above.
- For a person who will turn 12, he/she will be given a 3-month window, counting from his/her 12th birthday, during which he/she will be exempted from Vaccine Pass requirements, and thereafter his/her eligibility will follow the category applicable to persons aged 12 to 17.
- Recovery is defined as 14 days after the date of the most recent documented positive test.
- The number of doses received before infection count only those doses received at least 14 days before the most recent documented positive test. In other words, a dose received within 14 days before the most recent documented positive test will not be counted as a dose received before infection.

Version date: 20 March 2022

(Source: www.coronavirus.gov.hk)