



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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25 October 2022

To : Supervisors / Principals of all Secondary Schools, Primary Schools, Special Schools, Private Schools offering Non-Local Curriculum, Kindergartens and Kindergarten-cum-child care centres, Private Schools offering Non-Formal Curriculum

Dear Supervisor / Principal,

Latest Arrangements for Face-to-Face Classes for Schools in Hong Kong in the 2022/23 School Year

This letter informs secondary schools, primary schools, special schools, schools offering non-local curriculum, kindergartens/kindergarten-cum-child care centres (collectively referred to as ‘KGs’) and private schools offering non-formal curriculum (PSNFCs) (commonly known as “tutorial schools”) in Hong Kong of the latest arrangements for face-to-face classes.

Application Arrangements for Whole-day Face-to-Face Classes in Secondary and Primary Schools

The Education Bureau (EDB) has been closely monitoring the latest development of the COVID-19 epidemic situation in Hong Kong, maintaining close communication with the school sector, and listening to the advice of health experts in order to review and adjust the anti-epidemic measures and schooling arrangements in a timely manner. The Government’s overall anti-epidemic direction is to create the greatest room for people’s livelihood and economic activities and enable schools to maintain a stable teaching and learning environment as far as possible, with a view to striking a balance between epidemic prevention and learning. The EDB takes into account the views of stakeholders and announces the updated arrangements for whole-day face-to-face classes with the details as below:

Secondary Schools

The EDB will suspend the vaccination requirements originally scheduled for implementation on 1 November 2022 (that was announced in the letter to schools on 30 August 2022). The existing whole-day face-to-face class requirements (i.e. a school with 90% or more of the total number of students of the whole school or an individual class level eligible to receive vaccination having received two doses of vaccine for more than 14 days may apply to the EDB for whole-day face-to-face classes) will continue until 31 January 2023. Secondary schools that have already applied for whole-day face-to-face classes for the whole-school or individual class levels do not need to re-submit their applications. Secondary schools planning to submit new applications on or before 31 January 2023 should fill in Annex 1 in the letter to schools dated 5 August 2022

(https://www.edb.gov.hk/attachment/en/sch-admin/admin/about-sch/diseases-prevention/edb_20220805_eng.pdf).

If individual secondary schools (including secondary sections of special schools) plan to resume face-to-face classes for the whole school or individual class levels on or after 1 February 2023, students who have received three doses¹ of vaccine (excluding those who have received two doses of vaccine but are still within the time interval waiting for the third dose, students aged 5 to 11 who are required to receive only two doses of BioNTech vaccine, and students who had prior COVID-19 infection and are not required to receive the third dose of vaccine²) must reach 90% or more of the total number of students of the whole school or an individual class level eligible to receive vaccination.

Primary Schools

The vaccination rate of primary students has been increasing steadily. Currently, the percentage of children aged 5 to 11 who have received the second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine has already exceeded 70%. In order to allow primary students to gradually resume normal school life, starting from 1 December 2022, if, in a primary school³ (including the primary section of a special school), 70% or more of the total number of students of the whole school or an individual class level eligible to receive vaccination have received two doses of vaccine for more than 14 days, the school may make an application to the EDB and we will take into account the actual circumstances of the school to allow it to resume whole-day face-to-face classes for the whole school or the individual class level.

Students who are unfit for vaccination with valid medical proofs, students who have previously been infected with COVID-19 which render them unable to be vaccinated, and

¹ Students having received two doses of vaccine on or before 1 October 2022 who are still within the time interval waiting to receive the third dose of vaccine will be regarded as meeting the respective vaccination requirements. Such students are allowed to: (a) attend whole-day classes; (b) return to school on the other half-day; (c) take part in mask-off activities (including luncheon); (d) reside in the boarding sections; (e) be counted as a valid entry in the commendation scheme. These students must take the third dose of vaccine within 1 week after they are eligible to do so. Otherwise, they cannot participate in the above activities/be counted into the total number of students having completed vaccination

² Generally speaking, a person who has been infected with COVID-19 requires one less dose of COVID-19 vaccine than others. For details of the recommendations from the 2019 COVID-19 Vaccination Programme, please refer to the website: <https://www.covidvaccine.gov.hk/en/recommendedDoses>

³ Including students who are aged 12 years or above.

those who are not in Hong Kong will not be counted towards the total number of student population eligible to receive vaccination.

For a secondary school or primary school having fulfilled the above requirements and would like to arrange the whole school or an individual class level for whole-day face-to-face classes, after obtaining the endorsement of the Incorporated Management Committee /School Management Committee, the school should duly complete **Annex 1/Annex 2** and notify the respective school development section of the EDB of the class resumption arrangements for the whole-school/individual class level(s) at least four working days before the target commencement date. The EDB will, in general, issue a reply slip within two working days. The school should inform parents, students and related stakeholders of its plan as early as possible, and maintain the vaccination record of its teachers and school staff properly.

KGs

KG students are young and they have lower self-care abilities. In addition, the vaccination rate of KG students is still relatively low. Hence, KGs will not have arrangements for whole-day face-to-face classes for the time being.

Schools offering Non-local Curriculum

Schools offering non-local curriculum can take into account the situation of schools and the needs of students to make flexible arrangements. We will inform schools offering non-local curriculum of the related arrangements separately.

PSNFCs

PSNFCs should continue the arrangements for half-day face-to-face classes. The abovementioned whole-day class arrangements are not applicable to these schools.

Arrangements for Extra-curricular Activities for Individual Students

As mentioned in our letter dated 30 August 2022, to take part in extra-curricular activities, individual students of secondary and primary schools have to have received three doses of vaccines starting from 1 October 2022. To dovetail with the latest “Vaccine Pass” requirements for children aged 5 to 11, the EDB has updated the above requirement accordingly. Starting from today, schools may arrange individual primary school students who have received two doses of vaccine for more than 14 days to stay at school on the other half-day (after half-day of schooling) for non-academic extra-curricular activities (e.g. music and sports activities, school team training, etc.). These students may also participate in some mask off activities (e.g. playing woodwind instruments, “contact” sports such as football and basketball, etc.) at school (including both in-class and after-class activities). The vaccination requirements for individual secondary students to participate in extra-curricular activities will remain unchanged, that is, they must have received three doses of vaccine.¹

For a secondary school or a primary school that has resumed whole-day face-to-face classes (including whole-school or individual class levels), all students of such school or individual class level may stay afterschool for extra-curricular activities after the whole-day face-to-face classes (for mask-off activities, students must fulfill the vaccination requirements stated in the above paragraph).

Students of secondary and primary schools who are unfit for vaccination with valid medical proofs, students who have previously been infected with COVID-19 which render them unable to be vaccinated can be exempted from the relevant vaccination requirements.

Care for Students' Other Needs

As mentioned in our letter dated 30 August 2022, students (including boarders) who need to return to school for care must have had three doses of vaccine by 1 October 2022. The specific requirements are also adjusted as follows -

- (i) secondary schools: students who need to go back to schools to be taken care outside face-to-face class time must have received three doses of vaccine;
- (ii) primary schools: students who need to go back to schools to be taken care of must have received two doses of vaccine for more than 14 days;
- (iii) KGs: students who need to go back to schools to be taken care of must have received two doses of vaccine for more than 14 days. KGs can provide meals for students who remain in school for care services, but they should strictly observe the "Health Protection Measures for Schools" issued by the EDB and put in place adequate anti-epidemic measures to safeguard the health and safety of students; and
- (iv) boarding sections: for boarders residing in the boarding sections of schools (including special schools) under the EDB, secondary students must have received the required doses as listed in (i), and primary students must have received the required doses as listed in (ii).

Schools should properly register and maintain records of student vaccinations and the list of students who are medically certified to be unfit for vaccination, keep track of the latest announcements by the Government and the EDB, and 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.

Let's Get Fully Vaccinated

Vaccination is the most effective way of protection and can reduce the risk of severe cases and fatalities. Students (especially the younger ones) are one of the priority protection groups. We once again strongly urge schools to make full use of the various measures provided by the Government to arrange the recommended dosages of vaccination for their students as early as

possible. For students who have already received the first and second doses, we encourage them to receive the third dose of vaccine as soon as possible in accordance with the latest recommendation⁴ of the Government for comprehensive and enhanced protection. Regarding details of the facilitative measures for vaccination, please refer to the “Health Protection Measures for Schools”. We will keep reviewing the corresponding vaccination requirements for whole-day face-to-face classes and extra-curricular activities.

The influenza season is approaching. Influenza vaccination is one of the effective ways to prevent influenza and its related complications. It can reduce hospitalisation as well as fatalities. Persons having infected by influenza and COVID-19 simultaneously will have a higher risk of having serious illnesses or even fatalities. Hence, we strongly appeal to schools to arrange influenza vaccination for teachers, school staff and students.

The monthly online questionnaire to collect school vaccination rates, and the “School Vaccination Commendation Scheme”, will continue as scheduled. In addition, the daily Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) arrangements will continue until further notice. The EDB will continue to render assistance to students with financial needs.

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



(Dr Verena LAU)

for Secretary for Education

⁴ For details of the recommendations from the 2019 COVID-19 Vaccination Programme, please refer to the website: <https://www.covidvaccine.gov.hk/en/recommendedDoses>

**Notice of Whole-Day Face-to-Face Classes
for Whole School / Individual Class Level(s)
(Applicable to Primary Schools)**

To: _____ District School Development Section [Fax no. : _____]

In accordance with the letter issued by the Education Bureau (EDB) on 25 October 2022, we certify that we have fulfilled the conditions for arrangements of whole-day face-to-face classes for the whole school / individual class level(s) (‘✓’ as appropriate in the following box):

- whole-day face-to-face classes for the whole school - (i) all teachers and school staff (including teaching and non-teaching staff) directly employed by the school have met the requirements of “Vaccine Pass” and (ii) the number of students having received two doses of COVID-19 vaccine for more than 14 days has reached 70% of the total number of students of the school eligible to receive vaccination.
- whole-day face-to-face classes for individual class level(s) - (i) all teachers and school staff (including teaching and non-teaching staff) directly employed by the school have met with the requirements of “Vaccine Pass”, and (ii) the number of students having received two doses of COVID-19 vaccine for more than 14 days has reached 70% of the total number of students of _____ (please fill in the class level(s)) eligible to receive vaccination.

With the endorsement of our Incorporated Management Committee / School Management Committee, our school plans to initiate the above-mentioned arrangement from ____ (day) _____ (month) _____ (year) on (_____) (day of the week). We will strictly observe the relevant health guidelines and put in place all necessary health protection measures to keep the school environment clean and hygienic. We have also been keeping parents and other stakeholders informed of the related arrangements.

School Name:	School Chop (if any)
Name of Supervisor / Principal (in BLOCK letters):	
Signature of Supervisor / Principal:	
Date:	
Fax No.:	

(Note: If the school has met the above criteria for resuming whole-day face-to-face classes for the whole school or individual class level(s) but then the vaccination rate has changed and the

requirements are not met, please contact the EDB as soon as possible, and we will consider giving the school a short buffer period to handle the situation.)

=====**Reply Slip (For completion by the EDB)**=====

**Whole-day face-to-face classes
for whole school / individual class level(s)**

Dear Supervisor / Principal,

This is to acknowledge that the EDB has received your notification about the arrangements of whole-day face-to-face classes for the whole school/ individual class level(s) on the above-mentioned date.

[_____]District School Development Section
Name of School Development Officer (in BLOCK letters):
Signature of School Development Officer:
Date:

**Notice of Whole-Day Face-to-Face Classes
for Whole School / Individual Class Level(s)
(Applicable to Secondary Schools' Arrangement for Face-to-Face Classes
after 1 February 2023)**

To: _____ District School Development Section [Fax no. : _____]

In accordance with the letter issued by the Education Bureau (EDB) on 25 October 2022, we certify that we have fulfilled the conditions for arrangements of whole-day face-to-face classes for the whole school / individual class level(s) (‘✓’ as appropriate in the following box):

- whole-day face-to-face classes for the whole school - (i) all teachers and school staff (including teaching and non-teaching staff) directly employed by the school have met the requirements of “Vaccine Pass” and (ii) the number of students who have received three doses of vaccine (excluding students who have received two doses of vaccine but are still within the time interval waiting for the third dose, or those students aged 5 to 11 who are required to receive only two doses of BioNTech vaccine, or those students who had prior COVID-19 infection and are not required to receive the third dose) has reached 90% of the total number of students of the school eligible to receive vaccination.
- whole-day face-to-face classes for individual class level(s) - (i) all teachers and school staff (including teaching and non-teaching staff) directly employed by the school have met with the requirements of “Vaccine Pass”, and (ii) the number of students who have received three doses of COVID-19 vaccine (excluding students who have received two doses of vaccine but are still within the time interval waiting for the third dose, or those students aged 5 to 11 who are required to receive only two doses of BioNTech vaccine, or those students who had prior COVID-19 infection who are not required to receive the third dose) has reached 90% of the total number of students of _____ (please fill in the class level(s)) eligible to receive vaccination.

With the endorsement of our Incorporated Management Committee / School Management Committee, our school plans to initiate the above-mentioned arrangement from ____ (day) _____ (month) _____ (year) on (_____) (day of the week). We will strictly observe the relevant health guidelines and put in place all necessary health protection measures to keep the school environment clean and hygienic. We have also been keeping parents and other stakeholders informed of the related arrangements.

School Name:	School Chop (if any)
Name of Supervisor / Principal (in BLOCK letters):	
Signature of Supervisor / Principal:	
Date:	
Fax No.:	

(Note: If the school has met the above criteria for resuming whole-day face-to-face classes for the whole school or individual class level(s) but then the vaccination rate has changed and the requirements are not met, please contact the EDB as soon as possible, and we will consider giving the school a short buffer period to handle the situation.)

===== **Reply Slip (For completion by the EDB)** =====

**Whole-day face-to-face classes
for whole school / individual class level(s)**

Dear Supervisor / Principal,

This is to acknowledge that the EDB has received your notification about the arrangements of whole-day face-to-face classes for the whole school/ individual class level(s) on the above-mentioned date.

[District School Development Section
Name of School Development Officer (in BLOCK letters):	
Signature of School Development Officer:	
Date:	