



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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13 December 2022

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,

Latest Arrangement for Schools in Response to Government's Relaxation of Anti-epidemic Measures

In response to the Government's announcement on 13 December 2022 to adjust a series of anti-epidemic measures, this letter informs secondary schools, primary schools, special schools, schools offering non-local curriculum, kindergartens / kindergarten-cum-child care centres and private schools offering non-formal curriculum (commonly known as "tutorial schools") in Hong Kong of the latest corresponding arrangements in schools.

Arrangements for "LeaveHomeSafe" Mobile Application and "Vaccine Pass"

In response to the Government's lifting of the requirement for the public to scan the venue QR code of the "LeaveHomeSafe" mobile application (the app) when entering premises, starting from 14 December 2022, all persons (including those who provide services on campus, parents and visitors, etc.) entering a school campus are not required to use the app to scan the venue QR code of the school's premises. Schools are also no longer required to display venue QR codes for scanning purpose on the schools campuses.

Nonetheless, the current “Vaccine Pass” arrangement will remain unchanged. In other words, except for those exempted persons, all teaching and non-teaching staff, those who provide services on campus and visitors are required to meet the “Vaccine Pass” requirements in order to enter schools’ campuses. Schools should continue to request visitors to present their “Vaccine Pass” when entering school premises, and records in paper form, captured screens of mobile phones, “LeaveHomeSafe”, “iAM Smart” or “eHealth” are all acceptable. Schools should continue to clearly record and keep registers of related vaccination information properly.

In addition, the Government has also ceased the “Amber Code” arrangement under “Vaccine Pass”. Schools must, in accordance with the corresponding requirements, continue to disallow those with a “Red Code” (that is, confirmed cases including persons going to work/school and visitors) to enter school campuses. Schools have the responsibility to remind all visitors and parents taking their children to schools or picking up their children from schools to proactively report if they are having “Red Code”. These persons should also be reminded that they are not allowed to enter school campuses. For details, please refer to the relevant announcements by the Health Bureau.

Regular COVID-19 Rapid Antigen Tests (RATs) and Nucleic Acid Tests

To protect schools against the attack of the virus and ensure proper early treatment and follow up for positive cases, all school staff (including teaching and non-teaching staff), school bus/school light bus drivers, escorts and students should continue to undergo RATs before going to school every day. Generally speaking, RATs should be conducted in the morning every day. Only persons obtaining negative test results are allowed to return to school for work or lessons.

For teachers / school staff who are unvaccinated but with valid medical exemption certificates are exempt from fulfilling the vaccination requirements under the “Vaccine Pass”. Currently, such persons are required to undergo regular virus tests for COVID-19 on a seven-day-cycle basis, and the specimens must be collected by combined nasal and throat swabs, not by self-testing kits. The test results of a deep throat saliva test or a RAT will not be accepted. The above requirement will be lifted with effect from 14 December 2022, but relevant persons are still required to conduct RATs before returning to school every day.

Anti-epidemic Measures

Taking into consideration that the epidemic is still fluctuating and Christmas holiday is approaching, students and staff should stay vigilant and maintain personal hygiene to lower the chances of infection. The EDB will update the “Health Protection Measures for Schools”. Schools should continue to strictly put in place the various anti-epidemic measures stipulated in the above Guidelines as well as those under the “Health Advice to Schools for the Prevention of COVID-19” issued by the Centre for Health Protection. The measures include having school personnel wearing

masks at all times within school campuses, maintaining appropriate social distances, and measuring temperatures of teachers and students at school entrances. The objective is to safeguard the health of teachers and students. Schools should also always keep the school environment clean and hygienic.

We reiterate that 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 appeal to schools to make full use of the various avenues provided by the Government to arrange vaccination for their students as soon as possible for early protection.

For enquiries, please contact the respective Senior School Development Officers or Senior Services Officers.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Verena LAU', with a stylized flourish at the end.

(Dr Verena LAU)
for Secretary for Education