



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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30 December 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,

Resuming Normal Campus Life in a Gradual and Orderly Manner

In view of the Government's announcement on 28 December 2022 that local anti-epidemic measures will be further adjusted, the Education Bureau (EDB) will accordingly adjust the anti-epidemic measures and class arrangements at schools in a gradual and orderly manner. This letter serves to inform all secondary schools, primary schools, special schools, private schools offering non-local curriculum, kindergartens and kindergarten-cum-child care centres (hereafter referred to as "KGs"), private schools offering non-formal curriculum (PSNFCs) (commonly known as "tutorial schools") in Hong Kong of the related information.

Adjustments of Anti-Epidemic Measures

The Government has announced that local anti-epidemic measures will be further adjusted starting from 29 December 2022, including removing the Vaccine Pass requirement, removing definition of close contacts as well as ceasing issuance of quarantine orders, but the mask-wearing and isolation arrangement for infected persons remain unchanged for the time being.

In response to the above adjustments, the "Vaccine Pass" requirement for schools is lifted. All teachers, school staff, as well as other persons are no longer required to possess a valid "Vaccine Pass" for entering schools. Arrangements for after-class activities are also relaxed. For schools currently conducting half-day face-to-face classes, all students can return to schools for after-class activities on the other half-day. All students who lack carers to take care of them at home may also stay at school for activities.

Resuming Campus Life in a Gradual and Orderly Manner

From 29 December 2022 to 31 January 2023, the whole-day face-face class arrangement will continue to be applicable to schools that have reached the required vaccination rates. For details of the arrangements, please refer to the letter issued by the EDB to schools on 25 October 2022 (https://www.edb.gov.hk/attachment/en/sch-admin/admin/about-sch/diseases-prevention/edb_20221025_eng.pdf)

Starting from February 2023, all schools will resume whole-day face-to-face classes in a gradual and orderly manner:

- Starting from 1 February 2023, all secondary schools (including secondary sections of special schools) will fully resume whole-day face-to-face classes first.
- Starting from 15 February 2023, all primary schools (including primary sections of special schools) and KGs will fully resume whole-day face-to-face classes.
- For boarding sections of special schools, schools may handle the admission arrangements for its boarders according to its own school-based mechanism.
- For PSNFCs, they may also resume whole-day face-to-face classes according to the above resumption schedules for secondary schools and primary schools in a gradual and orderly manner.

Schools should make advance preparations for the above, including arranging their timetables, school bus services/luncheon arrangements, etc. and should also inform parents and related stakeholders as early as possible.

Requirements for Rapid Antigen Tests (RATs)

As teacher-student interactions and activities are frequent on school campuses, there is a higher risk of transmission. In addition, as students (especially the younger ones) are one of the priority protection groups, we will continue the requirements (covering secondary schools, primary schools and KGs) for measuring body temperatures and undergoing RATs every day before going to school from 29 December 2022 until 31 January 2023. For the arrangements thereafter, the EDB will review the situation and make necessary arrangements.

Generally speaking, RATs should be undergone in the morning. Only persons obtained RAT negative results can return to school to work or study. Persons having positive RAT results are not allowed to return to school.

Same as the arrangements before the Christmas holidays, schools are required to collect from all teachers, school staff and students the test results of RAT each day in the morning and report positive cases (if any) through the Centre for Health Protection's (CHP) dedicated website (<https://www.idea.gov.hk/chp-cdb/SCHOOL>) before 10:00 a.m. on each school day (2:00 p.m. for afternoon schools). Even if there is no case on a day, schools should also report to confirm.

The CHP will initiate epidemiological assessment for reported cases, and consider taking appropriate follow-up measures, including assessing the need to suspend face-to-face classes in accordance with the outbreak situation of the schools, requiring the schools to conduct thorough disinfection and requiring the schools to enhance ventilation. Schools should report the relevant situations to the Incorporated Management Committee / School Management Committee / KG Operators. Generally speaking, if a cluster outbreak has been identified for a particular class (for example, if 30% or more of students in a particular class report positive RAT results of COVID-19), the CHP will, taking into account all other related factors and the risk assessment, consider suspending the class concerned.

As the service target of PSNFCs covers students of various age groups, the daily RAT arrangements for the related teachers, school staff and students will continue until further notice.

During the period, the EDB distributes RAT kits to students with financial needs through schools.

Health Protection Measures for Schools

As the Chinese New Year Holiday is approaching, teachers and students should continue to stay vigilant and pay attention to personal hygiene to reduce the risk 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 CHP. 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 school environment clean and hygienic.

The EDB reiterates that vaccination is the most effective safeguard measure as it can prevent severe cases and reduce risk of fatalities effectively. We strongly urge schools to make full use of the different channels provided by the Government for vaccination in order to achieve comprehensive and enhanced protection.

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

Yours sincerely



(Mrs Conny LI)
for Secretary for Education