



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

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20 January 2023

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,

### **Schools' latest arrangement on Government's Cancellation of Issuing Isolation Orders**

In view of the Government's announcement to cancel the arrangement of issuing isolation orders to infected persons starting from 30 January 2023, the Education Bureau (EDB) informs secondary schools, primary schools, special schools, schools offering non-local curriculum, kindergartens / kindergarten-cum-child care centres (hereafter referred to as "KGs") and private schools offering non-formal curriculum (commonly known as "tutorial schools") in Hong Kong of the corresponding arrangements.

#### **Arrangement for Rapid Antigen Tests**

Activities are frequent on school campuses and students (especially the younger ones) are one of the priority protection groups. Hence, the EDB will, for the time being, maintain the requirements for students undergoing daily Rapid Antigen Tests (RATs) before going to school (covering secondary schools, primary schools, KGs and special schools) until 28 February 2023. Students having positive RAT results should not be allowed to return to school until they obtain negative RAT results. Schools should, in accordance with school-based mechanisms, continue to collect RAT results that are positive from all students each day in the morning and report such

positive cases (if any) through the dedicated website (<https://www.idea.gov.hk/chp-cdb/SCHOOL>) of the Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health on each school day. Even if there is no case on a day, schools should also report to confirm. That said, starting from 30 January 2023, all persons tested positive (including nucleic acid tests and RATs) are no longer required to report and provide personal particulars via the online platforms of the CHP.

As for teachers and school staff, to tie in with the latest Government arrangements, all teachers and school staff (including teaching and non-teaching staff of secondary schools, primary schools, kindergartens, and special schools), school bus and school light bus drivers as well as escorts, will no longer be required to complete a daily RAT on school days starting from 30 January 2023. Nonetheless, for teachers and school staff having positive results from self-arranged test, they should inform the schools concerned immediately so that schools can follow up accordingly. For teachers and school staff tested positive with symptoms (e.g. fever, cough, shortness of breath, vomiting and diarrhea), they should seek medical attention as soon as possible to obtain timely treatment and should not go to school. As the Government will no longer issue isolation orders, teachers and school staff should seek medical attention from a registered medical practitioner in order to obtain a valid sick leave certificate to apply for sick leave with the schools concerned. Schools should, in accordance with school-based mechanisms, handle the applications of sick leave from teachers and school staff based on the actual circumstances and in compliance with the Education Ordinance, Education Regulations, Employment Ordinance and the provisions and procedures set out in the Codes of Aid as well as the guidelines issued by the EDB. Asymptomatic teachers and school staff with positive test results can go out on their will or go to work, but they should take proper personal hygiene measures (wearing masks at all times, washing hands frequently, etc.), and avoid having contact with high-risk individuals or having meals with other people at the same table. In addition, they should not go to crowded places and attend mass gatherings in order to lower the risk of transmission. Infected persons should observe their own health condition at all times, and seek medical attention as soon as possible if symptoms develop or worsen. Regarding health advice for infected persons, please refer to the following information:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202301/19/P2023011900678.htm?fontSize=1>

Schools should explain clearly the school-based arrangements with teachers and school staff in advance, and should maintain communication with stakeholders (including parents) and handle their related enquiries.

### **Anti-epidemic Measures**

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, etc. Schools should also always keep the school environment clean and hygienic in order to safeguard the health of teachers and students.

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', with a stylized flourish at the end.

(Dr Verena LAU)  
for Secretary for Education