



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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20 November 2020

To: Supervisors and heads of government and aided primary schools
(including special schools) and primary schools under the Direct Subsidy Scheme

Dear Supervisor/ Principal,

2020/21 School Year
Arrangement for the provision of Free Lunch at Schools for
Primary Students from low-income families

In view of the development of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), face-to-face classes have been resumed in two phases at schools since late September this year and held on a half-day basis. Since we have to stay vigilant and follow closely all preventive measures to guard against the virus, students including those eligible under Free Lunch at Schools cannot have lunch on campus. This circular letter informs participating schools of the special arrangement about the provision of Free Lunch at Schools during half-day schooling.

Considering the needs of eligible students under Free Lunch at Schools, we appeal to participating schools to liaise with their lunch suppliers or other suitable lunch suppliers to offer nutritious and low-risk lunch boxes that can be kept for a longer time for eligible students to take home for consumption. This proposal is aimed at providing a healthy, balanced and substantial meal to eligible students, as well as avoiding them to take off their face masks over lunch to minimize infection risk. School are advised to implement the arrangement as far as practicable. At the same time, the arrangement shall also apply to non-eligible students whose parents may wish to order lunch boxes for their children at their own expenses. If individual eligible students have to return to their campuses on particular half days other than the half-day classes, schools could arrange lunch for them at schools when sufficient

preventive and social distancing measures against the virus are put in place. Please refer to EDB's webpage for details (<http://www.edb.gov.hk> → School Administration and Management → Administration → About Schools → Prevention of Communicable Diseases in Schools → Health Protection Measures for Schools → Item 4.2 of Prevention of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) - Health Protection Measures for Schools).

Schools should negotiate with their lunch suppliers for re-arranging lunch for students, and vary the terms of contract in accordance with the established mechanism if it is necessary. In this regard, schools should obtain approval from the IMC/SMC, and keep the records properly. For government schools, please refer to the updated procedures and financial arrangements issued by relevant Sections. Schools shall adopt the prevailing practice in reporting the changes on lunch prices in the reply slip attached to the letter issued by this Section in June of the school year.

Upon this special arrangement, schools should take the opportunity to provide health and environmental education to students by educating them food safety and reminding them not to waste food. Besides, students and parents should be told to handle lunch boxes properly to ensure food safety and hygiene, and encouraged to bring their own insulation bags/ reusable food storage bags to take the lunch boxes home.

For how to ensure the safety of school lunches, schools may refer to "Guidelines on How to Ensure School Lunches Ordered Are Safe" issued by the Centre for Food Safety (webpage: https://www.cfs.gov.hk/english/multimedia/multimedia_pub/files/school_lunches_ordered_are_safe.pdf.)

For enquiries on the special arrangement of Free Lunch at Schools, please contact the Extended Support Programmes Section at 2892 6659 or 2892 6656. For other matters relating to school lunch arrangements, please contact the respective Senior School Development Officers.

Yours sincerely,



(Benjamin YUNG)
for Secretary for Education