



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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To: Supervisors / Principals of All Schools

Dear Supervisor / Principal,

Arrangements on Deferral of Class Resumption for All Schools

In view of the latest situation of the epidemic, the Education Bureau (EDB) announced that all schools (including kindergartens, primary schools, secondary schools, special schools and private schools offering non-formal curriculum) would further defer class resumption for two weeks, that is, schools would resume their classes on 16 March 2020 the earliest. The EDB will continue to take into account the professional advice from health experts, readiness of schools and the supply of epidemic preventive materials in the community, etc. in making further assessment later. We will decide the date of class resumption when there are sufficient conditions to resume classes, formulate arrangement of class resumption as appropriate and inform schools as soon as possible so that schools can well prepare for the arrangements.

Strengthen preventive measures

We strongly appeal to students to avoid going to crowded places, and cease joining group activities (such as interest classes, tutorial classes, etc.) in order to reduce the risk of being infected. In order to reduce the flow of people going out, there is no urgency for students staying in the Mainland or other regions / countries to return to Hong Kong, but they should strictly comply with the preventive measures suggested by the local authorities. No matter where students are staying, they have to step up the preventive measures, pay close attention to their health conditions, and consult a doctor at once if feeling unwell.

“Suspending classes but not suspending learning”


During the deferral of class resumption, schools and students should optimise the use of different modes of learning, including e-learning, to maintain students' motivation and interests in learning. Students should stay at home as far as possible to attend e-learning activities, and read more books. On achieving “suspending classes without suspending learning”, the school arrangements should be premised on the principle of not exerting undue pressure on students and parents, and allowing students to continue learning as appropriate. The EDB has provided online resources to schools to facilitate students' self-learning at home, and will provide continuous support to teachers as necessary through hotline, mobile communication programme, webinars, etc.. In addition, starting from the 2018/19 school year, the Government has subsidised eligible needy primary and secondary students to purchase mobile computer devices through the Community Care Fund. The students should make good use of the computer devices for e-learning. We will conduct a survey to understand the situation of schools in implementing e-learning during the deferral of class resumption, and the problems of equipment encountered by students during the process. If there are cases of students not having any devices for e-learning thus cannot follow the school's e-learning plan, and the school has no other alternative means of assistance to the students, schools may contact their respective Regional Education Office for assistance. On the other hand, students can capitalise on the household environment to do some physical exercise as appropriate such as assisting in housework and keeping the house clean.

Schools should remain open

During the deferral of class resumption, schools should cancel all the activities inside / outside schools to avoid crowds and reduce the risk of transmission of the virus. Besides, schools should step up the cleansing of their premises and put in place all the preventive measures. While schools remain open, premised on the principle of “avoiding mass gathering at schools”, schools should properly arrange their staff to be on duty to take care of students who have to go back to school for lack of carer at home, to handle school basic and essential affairs and parents' enquiries. Schools should also follow the principle of “work from home” in arranging the work of staff who are not required to be on duty at school, including maintaining contacts with parents, following up the learning progress and needs of students' through other learning modes (in particular e-learning), and continuously provide learning activities for students as appropriate.

The EDB will continue to maintain close liaison with relevant government departments including the Centre for Health Protection, and to inform schools of the latest information and relevant measures on prevention of infectious diseases. For enquiries, please contact your respective Senior School Development Officers / Senior Services Officers.

Yours sincerely,



(Ms Cynthia CHAN)
for Secretary for Education