

# Extension of suspension of face-to-face classes for all schools after Chinese New Year holidays

The Education Bureau (EDB) announced today (January 27) that since the epidemic situation is still severe, all kindergartens, primary schools, secondary schools (including schools offering non-local curriculum) and private schools offering non-formal curriculum (commonly known as "tutorial schools") will extend the existing arrangements on suspension of face-to-face classes and on-campus activities until February 21.

The spokesman said, "During the period of face-to-face class suspension, schools will flexibly deploy various teaching modes to sustain students' learning at home. Schools should remain open, strictly put in place various anti-epidemic measures as stipulated in the 'Health Protection Measures for Schools' issued by the EDB and the 'Health Advice to Schools for the Prevention of COVID-19' issued by the Centre for Health Protection, and look after students who lack carers to take care of them at home. Schools will arrange for staff to be on duty to handle school affairs and answer parents' enquiries."

He continued, "Schools should continue to maintain communication with parents and students to show care for the learning and emotional needs of the students, and render appropriate assistance to parents. Schools should also remind parents to follow anti-epidemic measures and pay close attention to the health conditions of their children. Parents should avoid taking their children to crowded places with poor ventilation."

The spokesman added, "In view of the implementation of 'vaccine pass' arrangements at schools on February 24, we strongly urge unvaccinated school staff, persons providing on-campus services, parents and visitors to get vaccinated as soon as possible, otherwise they will not be allowed to enter the school premises. Eligible students should also get vaccinated as early as possible to protect themselves and their family members, and construct a more effective protective barrier for both schools and the community."

The EDB will closely monitor the situation and move in step with the development of the overall anti-epidemic measures in Hong Kong, continuously review the class arrangements and keep schools informed in a timely manner.