

**2023 Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination (HKDSE)**  
**Category C (Other Languages) Subjects**  
**Precautionary Measures at Examination Centres**

The HKEAA is implementing a series of precautionary measures, in consultation with the Centre for Health Protection (CHP), during the examinations to ensure the health and well-being of candidates, examination personnel and all involved in the administration of the examinations. School and candidates should pay attention to the following important points when taking the examinations:

**Before leaving for the centre**

1. Candidates must check their body temperature, perform the COVID-19 rapid antigen test (RAT), complete and sign the 'Candidate's Declaration Form on Health' before going to the examination centre on the examination day. The declaration forms (one form per day) will be distributed to candidates together with the admission form and is also available for download from the HKEAA website. Candidates should take a photo of their negative RAT result next to their admission form for record purposes and retain the photos throughout the HKDSE Category C examination period for random check. Those making a false, incomplete or misleading declaration may receive a penalty or even be disqualified from the examination.
2. According to the advice from the CHP, candidates with any symptoms of COVID-19 but not limited to the following should **not** go to the examination centre and should rather consult a doctor as soon as possible:
  - (1) Fever (tympanic temperature at or higher than 38°C), regardless of the presence of acute respiratory tract infection symptoms such as cough or shortness of breath;
  - (2) No fever but with the presence of acute respiratory tract infection symptoms;
  - (3) Sudden loss of sense of taste or smell.
3. Candidates are required to declare that they are not undergoing mandatory quarantine (including StayHomeSafe Scheme and home isolation), or have not done the COVID-19 RAT or have received a positive RAT result on the day of the examination; otherwise they should **not** go to the examination centre.
4. No supplementary examination will be arranged for written papers.
5. Candidates are reminded to take their body temperature each day, and bring their completed 'Candidate's Health Declaration Form' and surgical mask(s) to the

examination centre.

*[Note: Neither candidates nor invigilation staff are allowed to wear masks or respirators with valves in the examination centres as respiratory droplets can be dispersed through the valve thus exposing other people to the risk of possible infections.]*

## **Before the examination**

6. Schools serving as examination centres ('centre schools') should maintain good indoor ventilation and keep the environment clean and disinfected. The CHP has issued health advice (including personal hygiene, maintaining the environment clean and hygienic, etc.) to schools for the prevention of Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) (Interim). For details, please refer to the relevant website:  
[www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/advice\\_to\\_school\\_on\\_prevention\\_of\\_nid\\_eng.pdf](http://www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/advice_to_school_on_prevention_of_nid_eng.pdf)
7. Body temperature screening will be set up at the designated location of the examination centres. Before entering the examination centre, candidates must put on their own surgical mask properly (with the nose, mouth and chin fully covered) and use alcohol sanitizer-gel to sanitize their hands. Candidates can use their own sanitizer or use the sanitizer provided at the entrance. Schools may also put disinfectant floor mats sprayed with bleach at the entrance of the examination centres. Invigilators will check on the spot whether candidates have completed and signed the 'Candidate's Declaration Form on Health', and they will take the body temperature of those candidates whose body temperature is at or higher than the alert level of the screening system with a forehead thermometer and then an ear-type thermometer. If necessary, candidates may rest a while before having their body temperature re-taken. The reading of the ear-type thermometer should be taken as final. Candidates who have a fever will be required to leave the examination centre and consult a doctor as soon as possible. **The above procedure will be strictly enforced by the invigilation staff.** In addition, candidates should raise their awareness of the prevention of COVID-19 in the examination centres and should avoid talking with others.
8. For the written examinations, centre schools may admit candidates from 8:15 am (morning session) / 12:45 pm (afternoon session). Candidates who have completed the procedures of having their body temperature taken and completing the health declaration should be allowed to enter the examination hall.

## **During the examination**

9. In the written examination, candidates are required to put on a surgical mask properly and should not remove it. Those who refuse to put on a surgical mask will be

regarded as having breached the examination regulations. Invigilators may wear latex gloves during the distribution of question papers, attendance taking and collection of answer scripts. Invigilators should not ask candidates to remove their surgical mask during the taking of attendance. If invigilators have doubts or queries about any candidates' identity, the candidates concerned should be asked to stay behind for identity checking by removing their surgical mask temporarily after the examination session while maintaining an appropriate social distancing.

10. Candidates with serious sneezing/persistent coughing or mild respiratory tract infection may be arranged to sit at the reserved seats of the examination hall/room in order to minimise disturbance to other candidates. The time lost in the examination will not be compensated. Candidates who need a surgical mask may ask for help from the centre staff. If candidates need to drink during the examination, they could only do so outside the examination room under the supervision of an invigilator.
11. In the speaking examination, candidates are required to put on a surgical mask properly throughout the examination both **in the waiting room/area and during the examination in the examination room**. A distance of around 1.5m will be maintained between the candidate and the examiner. Candidates should speak loudly enough for the examiner to hear.

### **Candidates who fall sick during the examination (fever / vomit)**

12. If a candidate is unwell, he/she can summon an invigilator or request a sick bag and will be accompanied to the toilet or other location of the school, such as the medical room (if any) in order to rest. If necessary, the school can call an ambulance to send the candidate for medical treatment. The invigilator may request to take the body temperature of the candidate again. If the candidate is found to have a fever, the invigilators will ask the candidate to go home and consult a doctor as soon as possible.
13. Handling pollutants such as blood, secretions or vomit, etc.:
  - a. The centre schools should follow the recommendations of the CHP and the proper procedures to arrange that their cleansing staff wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) including a surgical mask, latex gloves, a disposable gown, eye protection (goggles/face shield) and a cap (optional) for the initial cleaning and disinfection.
  - b. After completion of the above procedures, schools should dispose of all waste and cleaning utensils (such as pliers, wipers or mop heads) in a waste bag.
  - c. Cleansing staff should carefully remove the PPE and dispose of it in a waste bag and then clean their hands immediately.
  - d. Cleansing staff should wear new gloves, properly wrap the waste bag and dispose of it in a covered rubbish bin.

- e. Cleansing staff should carefully remove the gloves and wash their hands with liquid handwash and water.

### **After the examination**

14. At the end of the examination, candidates should follow the instructions of Centre Supervisor in leaving the examination centre in batches, so as not to create crowding at the exits.
15. Schools should clean and disinfect the examination centre facilities daily before /after the examination by using 1:99 diluted household bleach (or 70% alcohol for metal).

### **Confirmed cases of Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) during the examination period**

16. According to the advice of the CHP, if any candidate or member of the invigilation staff who has been in the examination centre and is subsequently confirmed as having COVID-19, the CHP will conduct epidemiological investigations and contact tracing to identify any close or other contacts. The centre school should disinfect all potentially contaminated surfaces or items by using 1:49 diluted household bleach (mixing 1 part of household bleach containing 5.25% sodium hypochlorite with 49 parts of water). If there is blood, secretions, vomitus or excreta spillage, the school should disinfect with 1:4 diluted household bleach (mixing 1 part of household bleach containing 5.25% sodium hypochlorite with 4 parts of water). School staff should wipe from the outside inward, leave for 10 minutes, rinse with water and wipe dry afterwards. The centre school should arrange for their cleansing staff to wear appropriate PPE including a surgical mask, latex gloves, a disposable gown, eye protection (goggles/ face shield) and a cap (optional). For proper wearing and removing of the PPE, please refer to the CHP's video ([www.chp.gov.hk/en/static/32975.html](http://www.chp.gov.hk/en/static/32975.html)). After completing cleansing and disinfection, the examination centre can be used for another examination. If necessary, the HKEAA will endeavour to transfer candidates to another examination centre and notify the affected candidates by email and SMS via mobile phone as soon as possible.

### **Points to note for household members of confinees**

17. Persons who have travelled outside Hong Kong are subject to quarantine requirements according to the law. For information regarding quarantine for inbound travellers, please visit the following website: [www.coronavirus.gov.hk/eng/inbound-travel.html](http://www.coronavirus.gov.hk/eng/inbound-travel.html). Household members of confinees are advised to take heed of measures including avoiding going to crowded places, wearing a surgical mask when taking public transport or staying in crowded places, maintaining good personal hygiene, etc. Details can be found at the CHP website: [www.coronavirus.gov.hk/pdf/Points\\_to\\_note\\_for\\_household\\_members.pdf](http://www.coronavirus.gov.hk/pdf/Points_to_note_for_household_members.pdf)