



## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **2022 HKDSE Commencement Date and Special Arrangements for Candidates Affected by COVID-19 Pandemic**

The Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority (HKEAA) announced today (4 April) that written examinations of Category A subjects of the 2022 Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination (HKDSE) will be held between 22 April and 14 May according to the [examination timetable](#) announced earlier. Practical examinations of Physical Education and Music will be held in late May/early June.

Admission forms will be issued from 7 April. The admission forms for school candidates will be distributed through their respective schools, while the admission forms for private candidates will be sent by post. Candidates should attend the examinations according to the dates, times and centres as specified on the admission forms. They must present the original of their admission form and Hong Kong Identity Card (or another valid identification document with a photograph) at each examination session for identity verification and attendance taking purposes.

The HKDSE is an important qualification for candidates to further their studies or pursue a career. To address the concerns and needs of our candidates, the HKEAA has worked with the Education Bureau (EDB), education community and health experts to explore the possibility of setting up dedicated examination centres for candidates affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. After careful review and consideration of various factors, including the development of the pandemic, the latest isolation facilities and testing arrangements, and examination arrangements, the HKEAA, with the support and coordination of the EDB and relevant government departments, will again set up an examination centre at the Penny's Bay Community Isolation Facility (PBCIF) in 2022 for candidates undergoing mandatory quarantine. This special arrangement will be extended to cover candidates confirmed with COVID-19. In addition, HKDSE candidates required to undergo compulsory testing because they live in a 'restricted area' will be given priority in testing if they have to take the examination the following day.

#### **Taking the HKDSE at Community Isolation Facility**

During the HKDSE period, candidates who are infected with COVID-19 or undergoing mandatory quarantine will not be allowed to enter the normal examination centres, but may choose to sit the examination at the PBCIF. These arrangements apply to the following categories of candidates:

Candidates infected with COVID-19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Candidates who have received a positive or preliminary positive COVID-19 nucleic acid test (NCT) result; or</li> <li>● Candidates who have received a positive rapid antigen test (RAT) result and obtained an isolation order* from the 'Declaration System for Individuals Tested Positive for COVID-19 using Rapid Antigen Test'</li> </ul>
Candidates undergoing mandatory quarantine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Candidates who are identified as close contacts and have received a mandatory quarantine order issued by the Government#; or</li> <li>● Candidates who have received a quarantine order* from the 'Declaration System for Individuals Tested Positive for COVID-19 using Rapid Antigen Test'</li> </ul>

*\* If candidates are confirmed with COVID-19 or identified as close contacts on the day of examination but have not registered the test result on the 'Declaration System for Individuals Tested Positive for COVID-19 using Rapid Antigen Test' in time, they must register the test result through the system after the examination on the same day.*

*#If candidates are identified as close contacts on the day of examination but have not received a mandatory quarantine order before the examination, they are required to present proof of infection of their household members (e.g. NCT or RAT positive result) to the HKEAA.*

The above candidates should contact and submit an application to the HKEAA Public Examinations Information Centre (PEIC) (Tel: 3628 8860 /email: [qc@hkeaa.edu.hk](mailto:qc@hkeaa.edu.hk)) as soon as possible, and then contact the designated taxi service hotline to indicate their identity as HKDSE candidates and their intention to sit the HKDSE at the community isolation facility. Point-to-point pick-up arrangements for the PBCIF will be made for the candidates concerned.

If candidates are confirmed with COVID-19 or identified as close contacts on the day of examination, they should contact the PEIC and the designated taxi service hotline before 6:30am for pick-up arrangements with the aim of arriving at the PBCIF in time for the start of the examination. Detailed arrangements will be announced later.

Candidates who are confirmed with COVID-19 or identified as close contacts will be arranged to sit the examination in individual rooms in different zones at the PBCIF. However, in view of the constraints of the venue and facilities, special examination arrangements cannot be provided to candidates with special educational needs.

If candidates are feeling unwell or do not wish to take the examination at the PBCIF, they may apply to the HKEAA for assessment of their results. Please refer to the [Handbook for Candidates](#) for details. The HKEAA reiterates that candidates should not take the examination if they are unwell, as their performance may be affected by their health condition, and that candidates cannot apply for an assessment of subject results after they have sat the examination.

## **Examination Arrangements for Candidates under ‘Compulsory Testing Notice’**

Under the adjusted requirements for 2022 HKDSE in relation to compulsory testing for COVID-19, candidates who are required to undergo compulsory testing under ‘Compulsory Testing Notice’ but have not received the test result before the examination, they will be allowed to enter the examination centre if their RAT result is negative on the day of the examination.

## **Priority Compulsory Testing Arrangements for Candidates under ‘Restriction-Testing Declaration’**

With the cooperation and support of relevant government departments, priority compulsory testing will be arranged again for HKDSE candidates this year. HKDSE candidates who have to undergo compulsory testing due to living in a ‘restricted area’ will be given priority testing. The prescribed officer will give priority testing to candidates who are going to sit the examinations the following day. The candidates concerned should go to the temporary specimen collection stations at the ‘restricted area’ as soon as possible. They should identify themselves as 2022 HKDSE candidates by presenting their admission form and identification document. Candidates concerned still need to conduct RAT on the day of examination and obtain a negative result; otherwise, they will not be allowed to enter the examination centre.

Candidates should go to the examination centres as soon as possible when they are allowed to leave the ‘restricted area’. Candidates may contact the PEIC for assistance if they encounter difficulty to arrive at the examination centre on time. The HKEAA will help these candidates find a nearby examination centre as far as possible.

## **Precautionary Measures at Examination Centres**

Candidates are reminded to check their body temperature, perform the COVID-19 RAT and complete the ‘Candidate’s Declaration Form on Health’ before going to the examination centre on each examination day. Candidates with a fever or symptoms of COVID-19 or positive RAT result on the day of examination will not be allowed to enter the examination centre. 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 examination period for random check.

School candidates will receive RAT kits with the admission form through their respective schools, while private candidates will be notified to collect the RAT kits from the HKEAA San Po Kong Office or Tsuen Wan Assessment Centre in mid-April.

The *2022 HKDSE Contingency and Precautionary Measures at Examination Centres* and the 'Candidate's Declaration Form on Health' will be updated and available on the HKEAA website later.

The HKEAA will continue to communicate with the EDB, health experts, and the education community, while closely monitoring the development of the pandemic. Announcements will be made if further contingency examination arrangements are required.

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Date: 4 April 2022