



PRESS RELEASE

Special Arrangements for Candidates Affected by COVID-19 Pandemic in 2022 Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination (HKDSE)

In view of the latest development of the COVID-19 pandemic, isolation facilities and testing arrangement, and examination arrangements, the Education Bureau (EDB) and the Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority (HKEAA) announced recently that with the support and coordination of relevant government departments, the Authority will again set up an examination centre at the Penny's Bay Community Isolation Facility (PBCIF) in 2022 for candidates undergoing quarantine, and candidates confirmed with COVID-19. In addition, candidates and their household members residing in a 'restricted area' will be given priority in compulsory testing if the candidates have to take the examination the following day.

The EDB and the HKEAA have made efforts to further communicate with relevant government departments to enhance the implementation details. In order to give schools a better understanding of the arrangements and help them brief their candidates, the HKEAA, together with the EDB, held the School Leaders' Forum yesterday (7 April) for over 800 principals and school representatives. For information about the Forum and special arrangements, including arrangements for compulsory testing and taking the HKDSE at the PBCIF, please refer to the presentation PowerPoint, highlights of questions and answers, the DSE Express blog articles, on the [HKEAA website](#) later, and the attached annex.

Moreover, the HKEAA will upload the updated *2022 HKDSE Contingency and Precautionary Measures at Examination Centres* and *2022 HKDSE Candidates' Declaration Form on Health*¹ to [its website](#) for reference of schools and candidates by early next week. Schools and candidates are advised to stay tuned to announcements by the HKEAA.

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.

– End –

Date: 8 April 2022

¹The health declaration requirements are subject to revision according to the Government's latest COVID-19 testing and quarantine arrangements, or the latest pandemic development.

Annex (Updated on 11 April 2022)

Procedural flow for Candidates of 2022 HKDSE to go to Penny's Bay Community Isolation Facility (PBCIF) for taking examinations, undergoing quarantine and isolation

Need to sit for exam in that morning/afternoon [22 April to 14 May]		No need to sit for exam that day ² [16 April to 14 May ³]
Tested positive by nucleic acid test ⁴ (NCT)/ Rapid antigen test (RAT)	A close contact of a confirmed case ⁵	Tested positive by NCT/RAT or a close contact of a confirmed case ⁶
<u>Recommended action before 6:30am</u> i. Inform the Public Examinations Information Centre (PEIC) of the Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority (HKEAA) (Tel: 3628 8860; operation starts at 6:00am) whether to attend the examination. The HKEAA to share the information of the candidate concerned with PBCIF. ii. Candidate concerned to dial the designated taxi hotline (Tel: 3693 4770); designated services for candidates (from 6:00am – 8:00am) to arrange <u>free-of-charge</u> designated taxi service to PBCIF.		Inform the PEIC of the HKEAA as soon as possible [Tel: 3628 8860 (office hours: Mon – Fri: 8:30 - 17:30, except for public holidays)/email: qc@hkeaa.edu.hk (outside office hours)] whether to take the examination(s) in the next few days. The HKEAA to share the information of the candidate concerned with PBCIF. Candidate concerned to dial the designated hotline of the Fire Services Department (Tel: 5211 9422) from 9:00am to 6:00pm to indicate identity as an HKDSE candidate. Staff of the hotline to contact PBCIF and arrange <u>free-of-charge</u> designated

² There is no need for the candidate to arrive at PBCIF for examination on that day.

³ Generally speaking, a confirmed case will obtain a negative RAT result after 6-10 days after tested positive. Candidates who are tested positive or identified as close contacts before the commencement of HKDSE can request to undergo quarantine/isolation at PBCIF if they intend to take the examination there.

⁴ Including those candidates who need to undergo NCT due to the issuance of compulsory testing notices. For the candidates and the family members affected by the restricted testing declarations, they should present at the testing stations as soon as possible within the first 2 hours from the start of the operation for priority testing. Candidates should bring along their admission forms as to prove their identity as HKDSE candidates. All other family members not yet returned should also present at the testing stations on or before 8:00pm and identify themselves as the family members of the candidates for priority testing in an effort to secure a timely release of test result by 6:00am on the next day.

⁵ Definition of Close Contacts would be based on individual circumstances. Generally speaking, close contacts mainly refer to the family members who live with the confirmed case.

⁶ Auxiliary Medical Service will assist with the arrangement for close contacts. Designated taxis may also be arranged by Auxiliary Medical Service if necessary.

<p>The taxis concerned would only provide one-way point-to-point ride to PBCIF to candidates. Other passengers or destinations would not be covered.</p>	<p>transportation to take the candidate concerned to PBCIF.</p> <p>or</p> <p>Candidate concerned to dial the designated taxi hotline (Tel: 3693 4770) between 6:00pm and 10:00pm to book designated taxi for the next morning.</p>
<p>Driver of designated taxis to contact the candidate around 15 minutes prior to the estimated boarding time to confirm the final boarding time and location.</p>	<p>Driver of designated transportation to contact the candidate around 15 minutes prior to the estimated boarding time to confirm the final boarding time and location.</p>
<p>Candidate to bring the original copy of admission form, the Hong Kong Identity Card (HKID), and personal luggage, and board the designated taxi at the agreed location.</p>	<p>Candidate to bring the original copy of admission form, HKID and personal luggage, and board the designated transportation at the agreed location.</p>
<p>Upon arriving PBCIF, subject to the candidate's status being a confirmed case or a close contact of a confirmed case, Civil Aid Service (CAS) staff to divert the candidates to designated zone for check-in with HKID and storage of luggage. Candidates will then be led to individual examination rooms to sit for examination, examination personnel from the HKEAA will check against the HKID and admission form.</p> <p>If the candidate arrives at PBCIF after 8:30am due to traffic conditions, the HKEAA would postpone the examination start time as appropriate for the candidate on discretion.</p>	<p>Upon arriving PBCIF, subject to the candidate's status being a confirmed case or a close contact of a confirmed case, CAS staff to check-in for the candidate in line with established procedures and inform the HKEAA the information about candidates.</p> <p>Candidates should declare or remind their family members with positive testing results to make declaration on the 'Declaration System for Individuals Tested Positive for COVID-19 using Rapid Antigen Test': https://www.chp.gov.hk/ratp/⁷</p>
<p>The candidate sits the examination in individual rooms and examination personnel from the HKEAA will patrol outside the units for invigilation.</p>	<p>Take examination on the next day (or/and the examination days thereafter).</p>
<p>Invigilators to collect answer scripts after the examination.</p>	

⁷ In case of a positive NCT result, declaration should be made on the 'Online Submission of Information to Centre for Health Protection for COVID-19 Patients'.

<p>CAS staff to check-in for the candidates to stay in PBCIF. Candidates to be escorted to individual accommodation units.</p> <p>Candidates should declare or remind their family members with positive testing results to make declaration on the 'Declaration System for Individuals Tested Positive for COVID-19 using Rapid Antigen Test': https://www.chp.gov.hk/ratp/⁸</p>	
<p><u>Criteria for discharge from isolation facilities</u>⁹:</p> <p>For people who have not been vaccinated or have only received one dose of COVID-19 vaccine, including infected persons and close contacts staying in the community isolation facilities (CIFs), are required to undergo 14-day medical surveillance at CIF and fulfil relevant testing requirements before being considered for completion of isolation or quarantine.</p> <p>Infected persons who have received at least two doses of COVID-19 vaccines and are tested negative by rapid antigen tests (RAT) on Day 6 and Day 7 after tested positive may get early discharge from the CIFs on Day 7.</p> <p>If they obtain at least one positive test result during RATs on these two successive days, they may subsequently conduct RATs on a daily basis. They may immediately leave CIF after they obtain negative test results for two successive days. Close contacts who have received at least two doses of COVID-19 vaccine are subject to similar arrangement.</p> <p>Those who have received at least two doses of COVID-19 vaccines may immediately leave CIF once they satisfy the above criteria. They do not need to wait for their household members to recover or complete quarantine.</p>	
<p>Take shuttle bus to Tsing Yi MTR Station, two buses daily (4:30 pm and 7:00 pm).</p>	

⁸ In case of a positive NCT result, declaration should be made on the 'Online Submission of Information to Centre for Health Protection for COVID-19 Patients'.

⁹ According to the announcement of the Hong Kong Government made on 6 March 2022.
(https://www.news.gov.hk/chi/2022/03/20220306/20220306_100148_145.html)