

首見停課社區爆發陰影加劇

壹 名十七歲女學生昨日被確診感染 H1N1 甲型流感病毒，需入院接受隔離治療，其就讀的東九龍匯基書院亦因此需要停課十四天。這是本港自出現甲流病例以來首宗學校停課。

首宗學校停課，顯示甲流病毒對本港的威脅進一步加劇。發病女學生為本港確診的第十三宗，在此之前的十二宗，除首宗需要封鎖墨西哥男子入住的灣仔維景酒店外，餘十一宗皆未涉任何社區設施。而一旦出現學校停課，即意味病毒有可能已被帶入社區，社區爆發的危機亦隨之迫近一步。

該名中五女學生被確診後，衛生防護中心及教育局迅速作出停課的決定，是及時和正確的。一來，該名女生在外遊返港後曾返校參加畢業禮綵排，在場的還有一百六十多名同學及教職員工，雖然女生當時有佩戴口罩，但仍不能確保病毒未被傳播，因此停課清潔校舍以及勸喻其他在場同學服食特敏福在家休息是有必要的；二來，停課決定無疑是向全港學校及家長進一步敲響防疫警鐘，有助防止出現社區爆發。

正如食物及衛生局局長周一嶽日前所指出，學校是社區爆發最高危的場所。特別是小學及中學低年班，同學之間習慣推推撞撞或互相分享食物，身體有密切接觸，更常有搓鼻子、揉眼睛等動作，一旦有病毒存在，傳播往往就是一片，墨西哥及美國的多所學校都是「重災區」，病例一來就是幾十個。

而一旦學校「戰線」崩潰，學童將病毒帶返家再傳給家人，社區爆發就已無可避免。因此，衛生防護中心及教育局昨日在女生確診後立即宣布匯基停課，是果斷與及時的，而自防疫工作開展至今的一條重要經驗，就是決策要及時。

同樣，港大微生物學專家袁國勇教授日前亦曾指出，當前本港防疫工作的一大重點，是要盡可能將病毒擴散的時間推遲，如果能「捱」到暑期開始，學校都放了假，社區爆發的可能性就得以大大降低。

當然，「停課令下」，宣布容易，實行起來卻有一大堆實際困難。眼下正是期終考試及各項公開考試舉行的關鍵時刻，如匯基書院的中五學生本來要參加下周舉行的會考英文科口試，考試局需要為他們另作安排。

停課期間，學生的學習不能完全中斷，校方需要通過網上或其他方式繼續提供教材及進行輔導。而停課學生按照要求，應該留在家中休息及繼續進行學習，而不是多了兩周額外假期可以四出遊玩，如果這樣，停課的



匯基書院一名女生確診患上甲流，學校停課兩周

目的或效果就會大打折扣。

此外，如果需要停課的是小學生，問題將會更難解決，不少家長都需要上班，不可能把孩子獨留家中，請假又未必獲得僱主諒解，這些都是未來停課進一步擴大可能帶來的實際問題。對此，教育局及有關校方必須及早作出安排，比如由一些社區會堂或福利中心協助提供照顧。

另一方面，際此全球疫情尚在蔓延之際，如非確有必要，家長們亦應該在這段期間避免帶同子女外遊，如匯基書院這名女生及其只有四歲的表弟，隨同家人往加拿大旅遊探親，結果回港後雙雙發病，家長又何苦來哉呢？

2009/05/29 大公報社評

Editorial

Possibility increases for community outbreak of swine flu

A 17-year-old girl student yesterday was confirmed to be suffering from human swine flu (A/H1N1) and was hospitalized for quarantine. As a result, the school she attends – the United Christian College (Kowloon East) – was also ordered yesterday to shut its doors for 14 days. This is the first school closure since the first A/H1N1 case was reported in Hong Kong.

The first school closure is a manifestation that the threat of the A/H1N1 virus to Hong Kong is intensifying. The infected girl student is the 13th confirmed case in Hong Kong. No community facility was involved in the previous 12 cases except the first one in which the MetroPark Hotel in Wan Chai – where the infected Mexican man stayed – had to be sealed off for quarantine. A school closure, however, means the virus has possibly been brought into a community, which is one step closer to a community outbreak.

Following the confirmation of the infection of the F-5 girl student, the Centre for Health Protection and Education Bureau immediately decided to close the school. Such decision is timely and correct. For one thing, after returning to Hong Kong from an overseas tour, the girl student took part in a graduation ceremony rehearsal at her school, which was also attended by 160-plus students and school staff members. Although the girl had been wearing a mask while at school, there was no guarantee that the virus did not spread. Therefore it is necessary to close the school for cleaning and to advise those who were present at the rehearsal to take Tamiflu and rest at home. Secondly, the school-closure decision once again unequivocally raises the pandemic alarm to all schools and parents in Hong Kong, which is helpful to prevent a possible community outbreak.

As Secretary for Food & Health York Chow Yat-ngok pointed out earlier, schools are the most vulnerable to a community outbreak. Particularly in primary and junior high schools, pupils like to jostle each other or share food and thus they have intimate physical contacts. They also often like to rub their noses and eyes with their hands. So if there is any virus, it would quickly spread among them. Many schools in Mexico and the United states have become "heavy disaster areas" with the number of infected cases in the dozens in an outbreak.

Once the battle-line at schools collapses, pupils will take virus home and spread it to their families. Then a community outbreak becomes inevitable. Therefore, the decision by the Centre for Health Protection and Education Bureau to close the school is resolute and timely. An important experience gained since the start of the current fight against pandemic is that decisions must be made in time.

Similarly, Professor Yuen Kwok Yung, a specialist in microbiology with the University of Hong Kong, also pointed out earlier that a major task of Hong Kong's pandemic prevention was to delay the spread of the virus as late as possible. If it could be delayed until summer vacation begins, the possibility for a community outbreak would become much slimmer as by then all

schools would be closed.

Of course, to give an order to close a school is easy, but there are practical difficulties in carrying such an order. Right now it is the crucial season when final exams and various public exams are being held. The F-5 students at the United Christian College (Kowloon East) were originally set to participate in the HKCEE Oral Exam next week. Now the Hong Kong Examination and Assessment Authority will have to make an alternative arrangement.

And during the school closure, students' study should not be completely interrupted. The school authority needs to continue providing teaching stuff and tutoring through the Internet or via other channels. As required, the students concerned must stay at home to take a rest and continue their study. The school closure **is not meant** to give an extra two-week break for the students to go out and play. Otherwise, the purpose of the school closure would be greatly distorted and the effects discounted.

Moreover, if classes are to be suspended for primary school pupils, problems will be even more difficult to solve. Many parents have to go out to work. They cannot leave the children alone at home and their applications for leave may not be granted by their employers. These will be practical problems in future when more schools are to be closed. On this, the Education Bureau and school authorities concerned must make ahead-of-time arrangements, such as asking community centres or welfare centres to help take care of affected children.

On the other hand, as the epidemic is spreading globally right now, parents should avoid taking their children to travel overseas unless there is an absolute necessity. The girl student of the United Christian College (Kowloon East) and her four-year-old cousin both fell ill upon returning to Hong Kong after traveling to Canada with their families to visit relatives and do sight-seeing. Was it worth it for their parents to arrange the trip?

29 May 2009

Idiom:

Be meant to do something – To have a particular purpose; to have a particular responsibility or duty.

Examples:

1. This song is meant to be listened to only at night when the stars seem both so close and so far away.

2. I am meant to do something different from others.

3. You are meant to keep the children out of trouble.

4. It was meant to be an apology, but it only made her even more upset.

5. Had humans been meant to fly, they would have been born with wings.

通識記憶體

甲流蔓延 66 國家地區

H1N1 甲型流感肆虐全球，截至本港時間 6 月 3 日下午 2 時，世界衛生組織確認全球 66 個國家和地區共有 19,273 宗甲型 H1N1 流感確診病例，其中包括死亡 117 例；阿根廷 5 月 31 日則出現了該國首宗疑似 H1N1 甲型流感死亡病例。與此同時，保加利亞、印度以及以色列等國家報告有少量 H1N1 甲型流感新增確診病例。截至 6 月 3 日，本港確診案例雖只有 27 宗，但有關人士指出，新型流感無可避免將會出現社區爆發，防疫工作仍不可掉以輕心。

面對 H1N1 甲型流感的威脅，特區政府採取一系列措施，包括官員帶

頭舉行「全城大清潔」活動。本港衛生署衛生防護中心轄下的「疫苗可預防疾病科學委員會」，更計劃建議當局為全港市民訂購 H1N1 疫苗，預防流感大規模爆發。

H1N1 甲型流感 5 月底首次侵入本港校園，新增的一宗確診個案是一名 17 歲、就讀觀塘匯基書院（東九龍）的中五應屆畢業女生。疫情一爆發，教育局便宣布該校停課兩周。其實，教育局早前也採取一些措施預防學校爆發流感，除了制定預防手冊，更派送 3000 元給每間學校作為防疫津貼，讓學校購買防疫用品等。

中文基本功

「民可使由之，不可使知之」發微

有人以為，古書無標點，可以任意斷句，隨心曲解。香港電台《解構經典》主持人於四月九日晚上，就把《論語》孔子那句「民可使由之，不可使知之」的話，說成有幾種斷句、幾種解法，顯然是上述那種看待古書的態度。

主持人所引錄的幾種斷句、解釋，都屬老生常談，明清筆記反覆記載，目的都在掩蓋孔子的愚民意識，以顯「夫子神聖」。殊不知，這反而歪曲了孔子原意。

古書並非絕無標點；即無，也有上文下理可跟。上引孔子那句話，由三國何晏《論語集解》到南宋朱熹《論語集註》，甚至宋選《十三經》（明清官定科舉教材），都作「民可使由之，不可使知之」斷句，且有「注」「疏」為證。主持人所引數例，都屬遊戲文章，一般作為開玩笑的資料。

其實，只要認真一讀《論語》，對孔子在那句話所表露的潛意識不會懷疑。因為在該書中有不少佐證，特別是這一則：

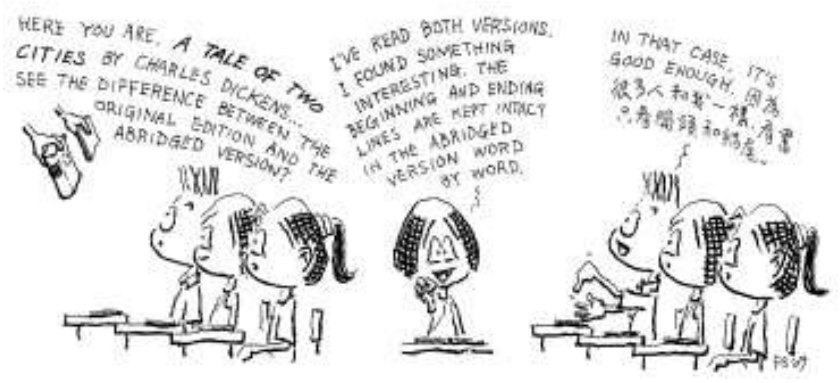
樊遲請學稼，子曰：「吾不如老農。」請學為圃，曰：「吾不如老圃。」樊遲出，子曰：「小人哉樊遲也，上好禮，則民莫敢不敬；上好義，則民莫敢不服；上好信，則民莫敢不用情——夫如是，則四方之民襁負而至矣，焉用稼！」

三個「莫敢」，結論又是「焉用稼」，孔子眼中農民的地位如何？可想而知。《論語》又載荷蓀丈人譏諷孔子「四體不勤，五穀不分」，無形中已顯出了孔子愚民意識的來源。

今天，固然不宜苛求於古人，但也不應迷信古人（或神化古人以傳播迷信）。我們要介紹孔子偉大的事業，卻不用替他那些脫離民衆的言行粉飾！

容若

五星級英文



從小看原著 有紀律學習

黑 楊 (yeung@harkyeung.com)

小時候聽人談英國的寄宿學校，都凸顯兩個特點：第一是貴族才可進入；第二是要用冷水洗澡，以鍛煉身體意志。

在倫大問教授，Eton 這頂尖貴族寄宿學校有何特色？他舉了 3 個例子。

第一是每朝 6 時多一定要起床，起床後第一個節目不是吃早餐，也不是做運動，而是看書。學校給學生的信息，就是每天早上首要事項是學習，學習完才有早餐吃。

教授說的第二個特點是個別授課。到 A Level，就是香港現時的大學預科時，就不在課室上課，而是拿着德國文學作品到老師家裡上課。老師會為他準備一點吃的，例如一件蛋糕，一杯茶，然後就大家談文學作品。

教授學的第三個特點，就是學生自小就看大作的原文，不會像香港中學般讀簡易本。

香港中學的 readers，都是文學作

品的節本，也就是經過編輯，把原文的用字簡化，也刪去了一些情節，使故事的發展不再曲折。很多香港的中學生都沒讀到一本經典作品的原文。看原文的好處是可接觸大作家說故事用字的風格。中學生未必看得明，但至少能一睹什麼是不朽的文字和文章。

有人或者會說，要中學生看大作原文，會不會看得不明不白，結果索性放棄不看。據我接觸的寄宿學校畢業生，這根本不是問題。寄宿學校重視紀律，不喜歡、不感興趣也得看完，這是學生的責任，不能不完成。若不想完成，簡單，請另尋高校。

說到這裡，有讀者已知道，寄宿學校整體的訓練有利於語言學習。從接觸文字大師開始，有紀律的學習，不能任性，想不學就不學。香港學生受的訓練是否如此？那麼香港學生的語文學習怎能與之相比？

(寄宿學校的語文訓練 · 中)

社經「數」描

提高行政效率 防 M 形社會出現

「M 形社會」是日本經濟專家大前研一提出來，所謂 M 形社會乃大部分中產流向中下，出現貧者愈貧，富者愈富的現象。尤其在高度經濟成長之下，「M 形社會」出現，中產消失。

金融海嘯，泡沫爆破，是外來因素使然，不過每個地方、每個社會，皆有財富分配層次不同的現象，今時今日，在自由經濟之下，財富分配結構易成 M 形。每個地方政府其實有責任令貧富懸殊的現象減低，不能視若無睹，因為外來因素難以控制，但內部因素卻是可以因政府措施和規劃作為支撐經濟活動的客觀條件，令最核心的社會財富及財富分配結構受到較正面的影響。

如今，中國的規劃經濟方向在全球金融海嘯中幾乎獨善其身，成為全球經濟最早復甦的希望，不過，大陸知名經濟學家成思危卻預言中國經濟復甦的狀況較為脆弱，有可能在未來 3 至 4 年內，有如中國股市般進三退二現象。國家高層對經濟復甦表示肯定，但能否避過復甦後的初期 M 形社會現象，將貧富懸殊的程度減低，則是後話。也許進三退二比大進小退似乎更易接受。

總的來說，純經濟增長而沒有高效率行政的社會配套和支援，M 形社會難免出現。

專業教育培訓顧問 呂康