



英文

香港接種率過低「通關」言之尚早

Too early to talk about reopening border with Mainland as vaccination rate in Hong Kong still too low

本港疫情日趨穩定，已連續多日沒有本地確診個案，令市民重燃與內地「通關」的希望，也有政黨對此提出了具體建議。市民困守愁城接近半年，希望「出關」的迫切心情完全可以理解，政黨的提議也是出於一番好意。但希望是一回事，現實是另一回事，在變種病毒壓境及香港疫苗接種率並不理想的情況下，與內地商討「通關」恐怕為時尚早。

連續28日無本地感染個案，才算是本地「清零」，也是與內地「通關」的前提。現在本港只是連續3日「清零」而已，即使日前確診的四歲小童是「真陽性」，香港也不過是連續26日「無本地源頭不明個案」，這與「連續28日無本地個案」是不同的概念。

值得注意的是，「清零」是沒有疫苗之前的「通關」條件，而現在使用「疫苗護照」或「疫苗通行證」是全球大勢所趨，香港與內地「通關」的標準也應該與時俱進，將「清零」與提高接種率綜合起來考慮，這才是對本港及內地都負責任的做法。

香港接種疫苗剛超過2百萬劑，目標人群的第一劑接種率為18%，打齊兩針的約為12%，這與必須覆蓋七成以上人口才能形成免疫屏障，尚存在相當大的距離。若觀察香港與內地居民的接種情況，更是大異其趣。如今內地無論城市還是鄉村，排隊接種的人龍隨處可見，得益於國人全力支持，內地接種由3億劑跳到4億劑只用短短9天時間，即每日接種超過1千萬劑，「中國速度」再次震驚世界。

以深圳為例，目前該市已接種逾千萬劑，接種人口700多萬，目標人群的接種率超過53%，每日接種能力42萬劑。而且，深圳跨境司機、醫護、凍食加工等風險較高的人士已全部完成接種，可以說，深圳接種已大步走在香港的前面。

香港與內地「通關」，首先是與深圳「通關」。兩地接種疫苗比率相差懸殊，原因或許有多種，但香港完全可以借鑒深圳的有效做法。深圳是前線人員全部接種，公務人員率先示範，政府在全市設立了數百個接種點，也為大企業、社區提供上門接種服務，這些都是很大人性的措施。另一方面，內地及外國部分地方採取激勵機制，提高市民接種意欲，值得特區政府考慮及效法。

接種疫苗是走出疫情夢魘的關鍵，達不到疫苗屏障的疫情放緩是暫時的，脆弱的，也是靠不住的，台灣疫情失控已是前車之鑒。對香港來說，好消息是食衛局剛剛公布的數據顯示，兩款疫苗安全可靠。外國大量更新的數據亦證明，國產科興疫苗效用出眾，獲世衛組織「認證」指日可待。有關數據的公布，有助打消市民這樣那樣的疑慮，提升接種意欲。

在抗疫方面只存在一個標準，沒有「兩制」之分。香港何時能與內地「通關」，取決於香港抗疫成效和接種率。接種速度愈快、人口比例愈高，「通關」就會愈早到來！

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The epidemic situation in Hong Kong tends to be stabilising day by day. There has been no confirmed local infection case for a few days **in a row**. This rekindles citizens' hope about reopening Hong Kong's border with the Mainland. Some political parties also put forward concrete suggestions in this regard. Hong Kong people have been trapped in this city with anxiety for nearly one and a half years, so their eagerness to get out is utterly understandable. The political parties also make the suggestions out of goodwill. Yet harbouring such a hope is one thing but reality is another. Variants of coronavirus are pressing on the borders of Hong Kong and vaccination rate in the SAR is not ideal. Under such circumstances, it may be too early to negotiate with the Mainland on reopening the border.

Only when there is no local infection case in 28 days in a row can it be counted as "zero local infection" in Hong Kong, which is a precondition for reopening border with the Mainland. Right now, Hong Kong's record of "zero local infection" is just for three consecutive days. Even if the test on the four-year-old boy, who was confirmed to be infected earlier, turns out "true positive", Hong Kong can best be said to have "no local case with unknown sources of infection" for 26 days in a row, which is a different conception from "no local infection case in 28 days in a row".

It is noteworthy that "zero local infection" was set as a precondition for border reopening when vaccines were still unavailable. Now using "vaccine passports" or "vaccine passes" becomes a global trend. So the benchmark for reopening the Hong Kong-Mainland border should also progress with the times to **take account of** both [maintaining] "zero local infection" and expanding vaccination coverage. Only such a requirement is responsible for both Hong Kong and the Mainland.

Over two million doses of COVID-19 vaccines have been administered to the public in Hong Kong so far [till 21 May]. Of the targeted population, 18 per cent have received their first dose and 12 per cent their second dose. There is still a long way to go before a protective barrier can be erected by getting at least 70 per cent of the population vaccinated. A substantial difference can be noticed when observing how Hong Kong and Mainland residents react to vaccination respectively. In the Mainland, either in cities or the countryside, people are seen queuing to get vaccinated. In the Mainland, with full support of the people, it takes just nine days for the number of doses injected to

jump from 300 million to 400 million. This is equivalent to over 10 million doses administered per day. "China speed" once again shocks the world.

Taking Shenzhen for example, over 10 million doses have been administered to the public covering over seven million people. Vaccination rate of the targeted population there exceeds 53 per cent. Some 420,000 doses are injected every day. Moreover, in Shenzhen, people working in relatively high risk sectors such as cross-border vehicle drivers, medical care personnel and workers in frozen food processing industry have all been fully vaccinated. It can be said Shenzhen is **streets ahead** of Hong Kong in vaccination.

Hong Kong reopening border with the Mainland is meant to reopen border with Shenzhen **in the first place**. There may be many reasons behind the great difference in vaccination between these two cities, but Hong Kong certainly can draw on Shenzhen's experience. In Shenzhen, all frontline persons are vaccinated with civil servants taking the lead to set an example. The municipal government has set up several hundred venues and also provided house-call injection services for large enterprises and communities. All these are very humane measures. Furthermore, the Mainland and some places in foreign countries have adopted incentive mechanisms to encourage their residents to receive vaccination, which is worthy for the SAR Government to consider and borrow.

Vaccination is key to walking out of the epidemic nightmare. Without a protective barrier erected, easing of the epidemic situation is temporary, fragile and unreliable. Taiwan's epidemic situation **getting out of control** is a lesson we must learn from. For Hong Kong, the good news is that figures just released by the Food and Health Bureau show the two kinds of vaccines available are both safe and reliable. A great amount of latest data released in foreign countries also proves the effectiveness of the made-in-China vaccine, CoronaVac, is outstanding, and it is expected to be "approved" soon by the World Health Organisation (WHO). Publicising such information is of help to dispel citizens' doubts and worries and boost their eagerness to get vaccinated.

There is only one standard when fighting the virus is concerned. In this regard there is no such thing as "two systems". When Hong Kong will be able to reopen its border with the Mainland depends on Hong Kong's anti-epidemic effectiveness and vaccination coverage. The faster the

pace of vaccination becomes and the higher the vaccination rate is, the sooner the day will come for the border to reopen!

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WORDS AND USAGE

• In a row (idiom) -

If something happens several times in a row, it happens that number of times without a break. (連續，未間斷)

Examples:

1. I can't believe you won ten games in a row!
2. It is the sixth month in a row in which imports have fallen.

• Take account of sth (idiom) -

To consider or include particular facts or details when making a decision or judgment about something. (計及，將……納入考慮中)

Examples:

1. These figures do not take account of changes in the rate of inflation.
2. A valuation of a smaller company must take account of its potential as a takeover target.

• Be streets ahead (idiom) -

To be much better or much more advanced than another thing or person. (遠勝於，(粵語：贏出幾條街))

Examples:

1. She is streets ahead of the other students.
2. The latest sales figures show that we're streets ahead of the competition.

• In the first place (idiom) -

Used at the end of a sentence to indicate what was true or what should have been done at the beginning of a situation. ((用在句尾)本來，首先)

Examples:

1. What brought you to Washington in the first place?
2. I didn't care much for the job in the first place.

• Get out of control (idiom) -

To start to be in an unruly or unmanageable state or manner. (失控)

Examples:

1. The real estate market in this city is getting totally out of control.
2. Forest fires can easily get out of control.



續FUN英語

破解常見發音問題 (2)

本欄早前解說了腔調及輔音群組的疑惑，今集我們解說有關元音 (Vowels: a/e/i/o/u) 所衍生的發音問題及節奏的問題 (Rhythm problems)。

3) 元音的煩惱

跟Consonants一樣，漢語本身沒有這種元音 (Vowels) 的東西。另外，我們混淆英語元音很多情況是因為元音之中分長元音及短元音 (long vowel sounds and short vowel sounds)。舉例：

- Beat / Bit
- Beer / Bear
- Dad / Dead
- Sake / Sick
- Sit / Seat
- Tick / Take

除了翻查字典之外，透過聆聽或閱讀上下文 (context listening or reading) 也可以了



解多一點元音在不同領域上的應用。

讀者有興趣也可以嘗試以下這個繞口令的訓練：

Betty Botter bought some butter,
But she said the butter is bitter,
If I put it in my batter, it will make my batter bitter.
But a bit of better butter will make my batter better,
So it was better Betty Botter bought a bit of better butter.

4) 節奏的問題

作為一位語文老師，Miss Carol比較注重口語及聆聽。曾經有很多高學歷的成人學生也不懂得說真正的英語，因為不懂得正確的閱讀；即使是以正確的發音表達出整篇文章，只是喋喋不休以單一聲調 (monotone) 把文章大聲閱讀，也是沒有意思的。我深信，若然學生未能聆聽及掌握抑揚頓挫，把文章的中心思想娓娓道出，那怎能期望他們會寫得好文章？

正確地理解一個句子，很大程度上取決於掌握音節的閱讀。句子當中要知道重音音節的所在 (syllable stress)，有那些字眼需要強調語音及音節 (word stress)，也需要衡量

字與字之間音節的停頓。很多學生也誤解以為急速不清地說話 (gabbling) 便代表說話流暢 (fluency)。

當然，節奏問題也可以解決，但需有耐性及恆心。每天閱讀一篇新聞或是短文必定有幫助，三個月內必定有改善。沒有老師指導也可以自學。I always hope my students can devote themselves to self-education. And we all know that the most powerful people are always the ones who never stop learning.

Miss Carol

大專院校語文講師、企業培訓講師及國際英文公開試主考官
Email: carolc.english@gmail.com