



中英社評



# 有必要收緊學校防疫抗疫措施

## It is necessary to tighten epidemic prevention and control measures in schools

The epidemic situation is deteriorating rapidly. As a new academic year is about to kick off, anti-epidemic work in schools become a focus of public concern. Schools have heavy duties and face many challenges in the anti-epidemic battle. The Education Bureau (EB) has already issued a series of guidelines for schools, parents and students to follow. Afterwards, attention must be given to changes in the situation so as to adjust anti-epidemic measures accordingly in time. However, schools do not exist in isolation, and anti-epidemic work on campuses in fact is part of Hong Kong's anti-epidemic effort. Only when whole society is safe, can schools be safe. Only when everyone contributes to the anti-epidemic effort, can students' well-being be protected.

The number of confirmed cases in Hong Kong remains high in the past days, approaching 10,000 the day before yesterday. It is just a matter of time before it exceeds 10,000. It is against this backdrop that a new school year starts. School authorities and parents have conflicting feelings. On the one hand, they are concerned with the development of the epidemic situation and worry about students' safety. On the other hand, schools have not been able to operate normally for over two years with students becoming one of the biggest victimized groups. Schools, parents and students all do not want to "backtrack" and replace face-to-face classes with online ones. For this, EB has issued new guidelines. Half-day face-to-face class arrangements will be maintained. Students must take a rapid antigen test (RAT) daily, and the first test must be taken two days before school starts. Parents escorting children to and from school must swipe the "LeaveHomeSafe" application to gain entry into school campuses, and parents with an Amber Code are banned from entry. It should be said that such guidelines **accord with** the present reality and meet the expectation of parents and society.

However, the epidemic situation is **dynamic**, so education authority's response must also be dynamic. Half-day face-to-face classes are the benchmark while full-day classes the goal. Nothing is wrong with such an orientation. But under the current circumstances, it is necessary to properly tighten anti-epidemic measures. For example, should extracurricular activities that require students to take off face masks be suspended for the time being? As another example, a school could apply for resuming full-day face-to-face learning if 90 per cent or more of its teachers and students have received two doses of vaccines. Should the requirement be tightened to three-dose vaccination? As yet another example, under what circumstance should a school give up face-to-face classes? The education authority must have bottom-line thinking and visualise worst-case scenarios while making the best preparations. It should prepare various scenarios and issue unambiguous guidelines in time so that there are rules for schools, parents and students to follow. Then, they could calmly cope with it no matter how the epidemic situation changes.

Schools are a part of society. A well-done epidemic prevention job in schools has important significance of illumination for whole society's battle against the virus. And **vice versa**, if the epidemic prevention work in the whole of Hong Kong is well done, then the work in schools won't be done so badly either. In the past two years or so, outbreaks of the epidemic has been reported in schools from time to time, but basically in small-scales and with sporadic cases. There have been no large-scale outbreaks nor any **domino effect**, which proves schools have done well in fighting the virus to promptly cut off its transmission chains. Looking more closely, the infected students did not get the infection on campus but were infected by family members or in society. To a certain extent, schools are a victim. This fact reminds us that maintaining safety in whole society is a prerequisite for campus safety. If the epidemic situation in society deteriorates, it would be unrealistic to expect schools to be invulnerable to the virus.

Therefore, if we care about epidemic prevention in schools, we ourselves must set a good example by devoting personal efforts to epidemic prevention in the first place. Such as: those parents who have not received either one or all three doses of

vaccines should rush to get vaccinated; and parents should make arrangements for their children to get vaccinated as promptly as possible. The low vaccination rate for both the elderly and children is a weakness in Hong Kong's anti-epidemic effort. In particular, the vaccination rate for children aged under three is just about 10 per cent, so more efforts should be devoted in this regard. Moreover, parents taking RAT everyday would help protect their children's safety. If there is an outbreak in a family, the student(s) in the family must report it in time so that school authorities concerned could react promptly.

Caring about students' safety is no empty talk. Campus safety depends on whole society's joint efforts. The education authority is on the alert and combat-ready and prepared to react proactively, which is praiseworthy. But whole society has a common responsibility. The SAR Government has recently launched a new round of anti-epidemic measures including requiring diners at a banquet with eight people or more to show proof of a negative RAT. But to avoid taking the test, some diners pretend that they do not know the relatives or friends in company with them. Some restaurants also complain that "the measure is too difficult to implement" just because they think it troublesome and do not want to offend their customers. However, if anti-epidemic measures are not tightened to check the escalation of the epidemic situation, everyone will fall prey to it in the end. Isn't the lesson we have learned in this regard not profound enough? In order to protect school safety and students' well-being, in order not to backtrack in our anti-epidemic campaign, whole society must get united as one and join efforts to **weather the storm** of the epidemic.

30 August 2022

## WORDS AND USAGE

• **Accord with sth** (phrasal verb) – To match or agree with something. (符合…，與…一致)

**Examples:**

1. His interpretation of the data did not accord with the facts.
2. The punishments accorded with the current code of discipline.

• **Dynamic** (adjective) – Continuously changing or developing. (不斷變化的，不斷發展的)

**Examples:**

1. The situation is dynamic and may change at any time.
2. Financial markets are dynamic and for ever changing, and investors must learn to adapt.

• **Vice versa** (Latin phrase) –

Used to indicate that the reverse of what you have just said is also true. (反之亦然)

**Examples:**

1. People can perform some tasks better than machines can and vice versa.
2. The boys may refuse to play with the girls, and vice versa.

• **A domino effect** (idiom) –

A situation in which one event causes another similar event, which in turn causes a further event, and so on. (多米諾骨牌效應，連鎖反應)

**Examples:**

1. The accident created a domino effect, causing about 10 other cars to crash and injuring 15 other people.
2. The collapse of a bank could have a drastic domino effect on other financial institutions.

• **Weather the storm** (idiom) –

To deal with a difficult situation without being harmed or damaged too much. (渡過難關)

**Examples:**

1. Newspapers have weathered the storm of online information by providing news online themselves.
2. We will see if the president can weather the political storm caused by his remarks.



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## Kai Fong Add oil



續FUN英語

承接上集內容，今集繼續看看一些有趣的中式英語。

好幾年前，有學生興奮地跟我說，廣東話「加油」"Add oil"及「街坊」"Kai fong"已經被納入牛津字典當中。我沒有這樣的興奮，因為這不是恰當的英語。事實上很多英語老師也看不明白……

"Add oil"英文可以寫成"keep it up", "Kai fong"可以寫成"People living at the neighbourhood"。在學術英語／正式英語的情況下，希望學生對語文多一點認真。

中式英語另外一個問題就是會有可能斷章取義 (Out of context)，讀起來也不自然。

今集我們探討一些實例：

(一)

Don't drink and ride.

這個像是指令句，但不太清晰。

這一句的意思可以寫成 "If you've been drinking, don't drive."

(二)

曾經有學生撰寫短篇散文的時候用雞同鴨講來描

述互相不能夠正確地溝通，真正的寫了 "They are like a hen talking to a duck." 同學需要用多一點字眼撰寫正確用法。They are merely unable to communicate with each other.

(三)

我知道在將來如果不懂說英語便不能找到一份理想的工作。

所以現在我花上很多時間學習英語，並且我希望所有人也會幫助我。

"I know, in the future, if you don't speak English, you can't find a good work. So now I spend lots of time to study English, and I want everybody can help me."

在第一個句子當中，以 "job" 或是 "profession" 代替 "work" 會比較自然。在普通話中，"job", "work" 意思也是工作，在很多情況下也可以交替使用。在第二個句子當中的 "can"，也是把中文直譯，「會」或是「能夠」。在一般英語用法中我們會把這個 "can" 改為 "to"。

(四)

學生曾經描述對生活持漠不關心／隨遇而安的態度的人為 Buddhist style，就是直接翻譯他是佛系的人。我們可以以其他形容詞例如 "indifferent", "unconcern", "uninterested", "nonchalant" 等等也是比較清晰的。

那總結就是中式英語真的是那麼差勁嗎？非也非也。Miss Carol 認同前德國電台記者 Oliver Lutz Radkte 對中式英語的評論。Oliver 在德國海德堡大學 (University of Heidelberg) 修讀博士課程，主修 Chinglish。他認為中式英語把漢英兩種語言天馬行空融入一起，成為一種充滿朝氣活力的語言，他並認為中式英語是一種瀕臨絕種的語言、值得保護。(資料來源：Andrew Jacobs, "Shanghai Is Trying to Untangle the Mangled English of Chinglish." The New York Times, May 2, 2010)

大家有興趣可以瀏覽以下有關 Oliver Lutz Radkte 在海德堡大學的網址：

<https://www.asia-europe.uni-heidelberg.de/en/people/person/persdetail/radtke.html>

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