



中華人民共和國香港特別行政區政府總部教育局
Education Bureau
Government Secretariat, The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
The People's Republic of China

本局檔號 Our Ref. :

電話 Telephone : 3509 8486

來函檔號 Your Ref. :

傳真 Fax Line : 2891 2593

4 October 2019

To: Supervisors and Principals of All Schools

Dear Supervisors and Principals,

**Prohibition on Face Covering Regulation
Effective Starting from 5 October 2019**

In view of the social situation, the Prohibition on Face Covering Regulation (Regulation), made under the Emergency Regulations Ordinance (Cap. 241), was passed by the Chief Executive in Council on 4 October 2019 (today) and will take effect starting from 00:00 on 5 October 2019 (Saturday). For details of the Prohibition on Face Covering Regulation, please refer to the Government's announcement and the Education Bureau (EDB) will soon provide the public document for schools' reference.

The EDB urges schools to remind students and parents as soon as possible: Under the Regulation, it will be an offence to use a facial covering that is likely to conceal one's identity when one is present at a regulated public gathering or procession, or an unlawful assembly, a riot, or unauthorized assembly. To avoid breaching the law inadvertently, students should not cover their faces in any manner when they go out. In fact, covering the faces to avoid being identified is not a usual and reasonable practice in interpersonal communication. There is absolutely no need and no reason for students to cover their faces when they participate in normal and usual activities, as well as interact with teachers and peers. Therefore, in principle, students should not wear masks or cover their faces in any manner both inside and outside schools, except for religious or health reasons. This principle applies to all staff and people who work at schools (such

as instructors of extra-curricular activities, personnel deployed by service providers for providing services at schools, etc). In this connection, teachers and parents should set an example and serve as a role model for students. If students or school staff feel unwell, the best solution is to seek medical treatment and rest at home. The EDB urges schools to set out school-based measures based on this principle, including how to handle students and other people who do not follow the instructions. The EDB stands ready to offer support as necessary.

We also like to take this opportunity to emphasize again that schools are not places for expressing political demands. Schools should collaborate with their stakeholders to create a safe, stable and peaceful environment for students to learn normally and grow healthily. Students should avoid getting in touch with strangers outside schools and must not participate in chaotic, dangerous or illegal activities.

Home-school cooperation is very important in supporting students. Schools are advised to notify parents as soon as possible so that parents can learn about the impending implementation of the Regulation. Enclosed please find a sample of parents' notice (as attached) for your reference. We believe with the support of all parties, we can protect students and they can learn normally and grow healthily in a peaceful and safe environment.

For enquiries, please contact your respective Senior School Development Officers or Senior Service Officers.

Yours sincerely,



(K K LEE)
for Secretary for Education

4 October 2019

**Prohibition on Face Covering Regulation
Effective Starting from 5 October 2019**

Dear Parents,

Our school is informed that in view of the social situation, the Prohibition on Face Covering Regulation, made under the Emergency Regulations Ordinance (Cap. 241), was passed by the Chief Executive in Council on 4 October 2019 and will take effect starting from 00:00 on 5 October 2019 (Saturday). In view of this, to avoid breaching the law inadvertently, our school advises parents to remind your children not to cover their faces in any manner when they go out. In fact, covering the faces to avoid being identified is not a usual and reasonable practice in interpersonal communication. There is absolutely no need and no reason for students to cover their faces when they participate in normal and usual activities, as well as interact with teachers and peers. Therefore, in principle, students should not wear masks or cover their faces in any manner both inside and outside schools, except for religious or health reasons. If students feel unwell, the best solution is to seek medical treatment and rest at home. We urge parents to set an example and serve as a role model for your children.

We also like to take this opportunity to remind parents to advise your children not to participate in chaotic, dangerous or illegal activities. We hope that parents could join hands with us to protect students so that they can focus on their studies and grow healthily in a peaceful and safe environment.

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Reply Slip

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Dear Principal,

I, the parent of _____ (student's name) of Class _____ has been informed of the notice regarding the above issue.

Parent's Signature: _____

Parent's Name: _____

Date: _____