

## Tuberculosis in the school setting in Hong Kong from July to December 2018

From July 2018 to Dec 2018, the Department of Health (DH) received notification of 2142 (provisional figure) tuberculosis (TB) cases, of which 118 (5.5%) were aged 3 to 24 years (usual school age). The corresponding proportion in 2017 was 6.6%.

According to the data as of 31 March 2019, there were a total of 3 clusters of TB cases in the school setting from July to Dec 2018, comprising 16 subjects. All three clusters were from tertiary institutions. The cluster size ranged from 2 to 8 cases, with a median of six cases. Genotyping showed that none of the cases in the three clusters was bacteriologically linked.

DH will continue to promote awareness of TB and its prevention in schools, the general community as well as the health care sector so as to facilitate early diagnosis to allow effective control of this airborne infectious disease at its very source.