

Tuberculosis in the school setting in Hong Kong in 2017

A total of 4,306 tuberculosis (TB) cases (provisional figure) were notified to the Department of Health (DH) in 2017, corresponding to a notification rate of 58.27 per 100,000 population. Persons in the usual school age of 3 to 24 accounted for 283 cases among the notified cases in 2017. The figures for cases involving those aged 3 to 24 ranged between 250 and 350 annually in the previous three years.

According to the data as of May 31 this year, there were 15 clusters of TB cases in the school setting in 2017. Most of them (86.7%) appeared in secondary schools and tertiary institutions. The cluster sizes ranged from 2 to 15 cases, with a median of four cases. Details of the clusters by type of school and by month in the school setting in 2017 are shown in Figure 1 and Figure 2 respectively.

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.

Figure 1 . Number of tuberculosis cluster in school setting in 2017 by type of school

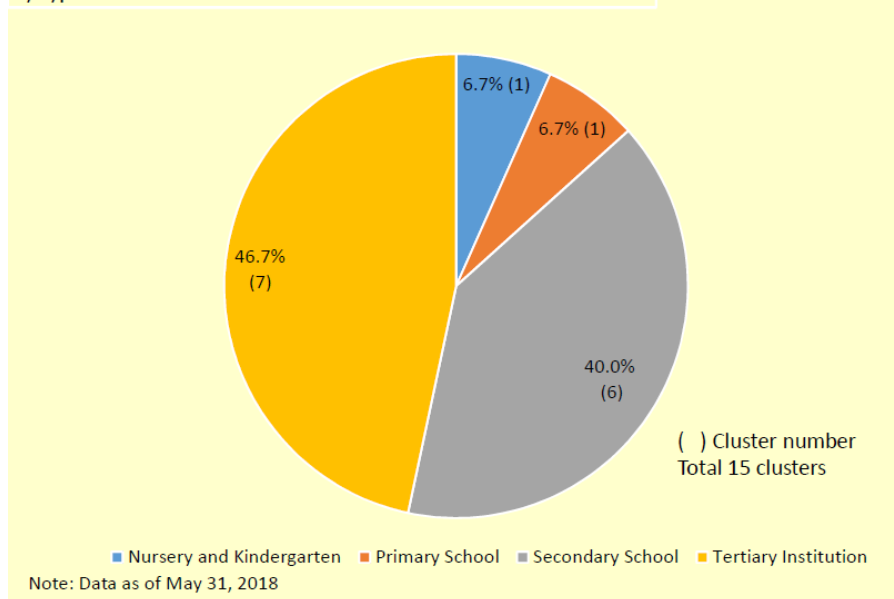


Figure 2. Number of tuberculosis cluster in school setting in 2017 by month

