

## **Tuberculosis in the school setting in Hong Kong from January to June 2021**

From January 2021 to June 2021, the Department of Health (DH) received notification of 1826 (provisional figure) tuberculosis (TB) cases, of which 74 (4.05%) were aged 3 to 24 years (usual school age). The corresponding proportion in 2019 and 2020 was 4.13% and 5.53% (provisional figure) respectively.

According to the data as of 1 September 2021, there were a total of 4 clusters of TB cases in the school setting from January to June 2021, comprising 10 subjects. Two of the clusters were from secondary schools and the other two were from tertiary institution and kindergarten respectively. There were 2 to 4 cases in each cluster. Two subjects suffered from multidrug-resistant TB. The genotyping results of two clusters were found to be 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.

Updates/January 31, 2022