

Tuberculosis in the school setting in Hong Kong from July to December 2021

From July 2021 to December 2021, the Department of Health (DH) received notification of 1 916 (provisional figure) tuberculosis (TB) cases, of which 82 (4.28%) were aged 3 to 24 years (usual school age). The corresponding proportion in 2019 and 2020 was 5.37% and 4.39% respectively.

As of 31 January 2022, there were a total of 2 clusters of TB cases in the school setting from July to December 2021, comprising 6 subjects. All two clusters were from secondary schools. There were 3 cases in each cluster. Genotyping analysis of these two clusters were found to be bacteriologically linked in 2 cases of each cluster.

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.

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