

Tuberculosis in the school setting in Hong Kong from July to December 2023

For tuberculosis (TB) in the school setting in Hong Kong, as of 15 February 2024, there were 2 clusters of TB cases from July to December 2023, comprising 4 subjects. The clusters were from secondary school and tertiary institution respectively. There were 2 cases in each cluster. Genotyping result in one of the clusters showed no bacteriological linkage while that of the other cluster is pending.

From July 2023 to December 2023, the Department of Health (DH) received notification of 1 654 (provisional figure) TB cases. Among which 48 cases, aged 3 to 24 years (the usual school age), accounted for 2.90% of the total notified cases in the second half of 2023. The corresponding proportion of TB cases for the age group 3 to 24 in the second half of 2021 and 2022 were 4.32% and 4.12% 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 and effective control of this airborne infectious disease at its very source.

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