

**Caritas Tuen Mun Marden Foundation Secondary School**

**2019-2020 S.6 Liberal Studies**

**Newspaper Refection (2) – M2 Hong Kong Today & M5 Public Health**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Class: S.6LS

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Source A**

**Proportion of parents in Hong Kong who receive vaccine information from social media**

<b>Age of children</b>	<b>Positive information</b>	<b>Negative information</b>
Below 5 years old	38%	50%
5 to 10 years old	39%	43%
11 to 15 years old	38%	39%
16 to 18 years old	26%	30%
Above 18 years old	35%	41%

*Department of Health*

**Source B**

Read the following newspaper carefully and answer the questions at the back page.

**Suspension of classes in kindergartens**

With the winter influenza epidemic sweeping the city, the government has, for the second year in a row decreed that all kindergartens in Hong Kong should close early for the Chinese New Year holidays. Government officials admit that the decision was made in view of how the epidemic is spreading as well as the healthcare system's capacity to deal with it.

The latest bout of influenza is fast and ferocious; so far it has caused 187 serious cases and 74 deaths. The Centre for Health Protection says that the number of cases of influenza outbreaks in kindergartens and nurseries rose exponentially from 87 in the second week of the year to 153 in the third. 120 cases were recorded over just the first three days of this week, indicating a kind of severity rarely seen in recent years. Information from the Hospital Authority shows that children admitted through emergency rooms have risen by more than 50% compared with normal times.

There is normally an interval of four to six weeks between when an influenza season begins and when it reaches the peak. Such being the case, it remains uncertain whether the epidemic has peaked, as the situation could further deteriorate. In accordance with principles of epidemiology, the government recommends kindergartens to close for seven days if three cases of influenza are identified within four days. Several days ago, government officials were still maintaining that a full suspension of classes was not necessary. But things have gone downhill so unexpectedly that the government has issued the order to suspend classes, causing inconvenience to many working parents who have to make hasty arrangements for their children to be taken care of.

Indeed, the decision to suspend classes has not been expected. But it has not been too sudden a decision. After all, the government has been publishing the numbers of closed schools over the past week. Parents should have been more or less prepared for the suspension.

In recent years, it has been the norm rather than the exception for public hospitals to become overloaded in influenza seasons. Even if the Hospital Authority is willing to raise remuneration and perks, healthcare workers are so exhausted physically and mentally that they would rather forgo these hefty benefits and take leave for some rest. With the influenza epidemic bearing down on the city and the public healthcare system overloaded, a full suspension of classes is both an effective way to control the influenza and a measure to ease the burden on the healthcare system. And since the problem of the overloaded public healthcare system cannot be solved overnight, the suspension of classes as a way to curb influenza epidemics might be repeated over the next couple of years, for which parents might have to be psychologically prepared.

For two years in a row, kindergartens have had to be closed early for the Chinese New Year holidays. This shows the inadequacies in the government's work against influenza. The government should learn a lesson and strengthen its measures for the prevention of influenza. The outreach seasonal influenza vaccination services, for example, should be expanded to cover all primary schools and kindergartens in Hong Kong. The government can also consider the wider use of nasal vaccines which, administered by nurses or pharmacists, might reduce doctors' pressures of work.

<https://news.mingpao.com/pns/%e8%8b%b1%e6%96%87/article/20190128/s00017/1548613259822/editorial-suspension-of-classes-in-kindergartens>

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<p><b>What:</b> <i>(Hint: What is the <u>main controversy</u> and <u>concepts of LS</u> are mentioned in the news above?)</i></p>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
<p><b>When:</b> <i>(Hint: In what time did the above news break out?)</i></p>	<hr/> <hr/>

<p><b>Where:</b> (Hint: In what place did the above news take place?)</p>	<hr/> <hr/>
<p><b>Who:</b> (Hint: What kind of people are involved in the above news? Mention THREE.)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <hr/></li> <li>● <hr/></li> <li>● <hr/></li> </ul>
<p><b>Why:</b> (Hint: Why the character would have such action in this news?)</p>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
<p><b>DSE Question Practice:</b> Based on Source A, compare the proportion of parents of children in different ages who receive vaccine information through social media. <span style="float: right;">(4 marks)</span></p> <hr/>	