



中英社評

# 明確抗疫思路 強化主體責任

## Government must make up its mind about how to fight the virus and strengthen its main responsibility

香港疫情反彈速度明顯加快，新增確診個案接連創出五個月以來的新高，日破萬宗「指日可待」。在這種情況下，香港抗疫何去何從？特區政府有無完備的應對方案？什麼情況下收緊限聚令？如何更有效推動與內地及國際通關？這些都是市民非常關切的問題，特區政府應該更加清晰地作出說明，這有利凝聚共識，共同打好這場抗疫持久戰。

新冠疫情持續兩年多，全球逾6億人感染，數百萬人死亡。病毒仍在不斷變異，同時人們對疫情規律有了更多的認知，加上疫苗普及，各地抗疫策略也在不斷地調整，形成不同路線。雖然側重點有所不同，共同點都是力求在保護生命和保住民生方面做出平衡。

抗疫是科學，所有措施都要有科學數據作依據。現在人們基本上形成這樣的共識，即確診數字高低未必是重要的，確保醫療系統在任何情況下都能有效運作，才是最關鍵。香港在第五波疫情高峰期間傷亡疊疊，主因在於未做好應對準備。相比之下，新加坡的總體確診人數比香港還多，但死亡人數較少，原因在於新加坡政府成竹在胸，對患者實行精準分類，未打針、已打針、打齊針的市民有不同的應對方案，確保醫療資源有效使用。正因為該國抗疫思路明確，方向清晰，不管疫情如何變化，市民都心中有底。

鑒於香港疫情快速升溫，醫療系統的壓力與日俱增，保障此系統不致崩潰成為重大挑戰。醫管局日前啟動第三級病床調配措施，預留了5000個床位，必須確保這些病床能及時使用。非緊急醫療服務因此被削減，保障有關病人的權益需有預案；分流長期病患，私家醫院需要勇於分擔。還有，並非所有家居都適合隔離，中央援建的方艙設施需要派上用場，還要考慮病人大量增加時有沒有足夠的照顧人手。這些都是抗疫重點，必須未雨綢繆。

看得出，香港不希望「一刀切」收緊限聚措施，不希望復常之路被打斷，「精準抗疫」符合香港民情和實際情況。紅碼人士不得外出，黃碼人士出入需要受到限制，尤其不能出席需要摘口罩的食肆等場所，這些看似簡單，但落實起來並不容易，效果如何取決於市民的配合程度，更取決於政府是否嚴格執法，否則，再有效的制度也形同虛設。

是優先與國際通關，還是優先與內地通關，這是香港抗疫面對的現實問題。香港是國際金融中心，必須保持國際聯繫；另一方面，香港經濟對內地的依存度更高，融入國家發展大局是前途之所繫。與國際、內地同時通關是最理想的，但在目前情況下，同時通關不切實際。內地抗疫政策非常清晰，如果香港持續是「高風險地區」，就會有疫情「倒灌」內地的問題。在這種情況下，香港要求內地增加通關名額就非常困難，恢復通關更是難以想像，這不利於香港的長遠利益和根本利益。

魚與熊掌難以兼得，世上沒有完美抗疫策略。先有抗疫思路，後有如何取捨。在香港抗疫問題上，「香港有求，祖國必應」，這一點毫無疑義，但特區政府必須強化抗疫主體責任，必須有明確方向，爭取市民支持，走出一條最符合香港實際情況、最能保障香港和國家利益的抗疫之路。坦率地說，這非常難。也正因為難，才是對特區政府管治能力的考驗。

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Rebound in Hong Kong's epidemic situation is noticeably accelerating. The number of new confirmed cases keeps setting new highs since May, and it is **just around the corner** for the daily number to exceed 10,000. Given the circumstances, what should we do? Has the SAR Government a thorough coping plan? Under what circumstances will social distancing rules be tightened? What will the government do to more effectively **push forward** re-opening borders with the Mainland and other places? Such are issues citizens are deeply concerned with, and the SAR Government must give clearer explanations. This will help build consensus and join efforts to fight and win this protracted war against the Covid-19 virus.

The Covid-19 Pandemic has continued for over two years, with some 600 million people being infected globally and several million killed. The virus still keeps mutating. At the same time, humankind is gaining more knowledge about the rhythm of the epidemic and vaccination becoming increasingly popularised. Accordingly, various regions keep adjusting their anti-epidemic strategies to take different paths. Although the emphases may be different, there is one thing in common – that is to **strike a balance** between protecting human lives and maintaining people's livelihood.

Fighting the virus is a science, hence all measures must be based on scientific data. Now people have essentially formed such a consensus: whether the number of confirmed cases is higher or lower may not be so significant. What is most crucial is to ensure the effective operation of the health care system at any moment. The main reason for Hong Kong to suffer heavy casualties during the peak time of the fifth wave of the epidemic is because we had not been well prepared. By comparison, the total number of confirmed cases in Singapore is more than that in Hong Kong, but the death toll is smaller. The reason lies in that the Singapore government knows what to do. Patients are accurately categorised and those who are not vaccinated, who are vaccinated with one or two doses and who are fully vaccinated are treated discriminately, so as to ensure health care resources are used efficiently. It is because the island state has clear thinking and orientation in fighting the virus that its citizens know what to do no matter how the epidemic situation changes.

As the epidemic situation in Hong Kong is deteriorating dramatically, the pressure on the health care system increases day by day. It becomes a big challenge to make sure this system will not collapse. The Hospital Authority (HA) has earlier activated the Phase Three Bed Mobilisation Plan to reserve up to 5,000 beds for Covid-19 patients and ensure they would be available when needed. As some non-emergency services have to be curtailed accordingly, plans must be worked out to protect the rights of relevant patients. Chronically ill patients are triaged, and private hospitals should have the courage to share the burden. In addition, as not all homes are suitable for isolation, the mobile cabin facilities built with the Central Government's help now **come in useful**. It must also be taken into consideration that there may be a lack of caring personnel when the number of patients increases sharply. All these are focal points in our anti-epidemic campaign, and we must plan ahead.

It can be seen that Hong Kong does not want social distancing rules be tightened indiscriminately and the process to restore normal life be interrupted. "Fighting the virus with precision" is in accord with public sentiment and reality. Persons with a Red Code are banned from going out. Persons with an Amber Code are restricted in moving about, and particularly banned from entering places where masks have to be taken off, such as restaurants. Such measures are seemingly simple, but not easy to implement. Their effectiveness relies on how citizens would cooperate, and more on whether the government would strictly enforce them. Otherwise, the system, however effective it may sound, would remain in name only.

A realistic problem facing Hong Kong's anti-epidemic battle is whether priority should be given to opening its borders with the

Mainland or with other parts of the world. As an international financial hub, Hong Kong must maintain its global connections. On the other hand, Hong Kong's economy is more dependent on the Mainland, and its future relies on its integration into the country's overall development. It is the most ideal to simultaneously open borders with both the Mainland and other places in the world, which however is unrealistic given the current situation. The Mainland's anti-epidemic policy is very unambiguous. If Hong Kong remains as a "high risk region", there will be a problem of the epidemic "flowing back" into the Mainland. In that case, it will be very difficult for Hong Kong to ask the Mainland for more entry quota for Hong Kong residents, and re-opening borders with the Mainland is even more unimaginable. This is not in favour of Hong Kong's long-term and fundamental interests.

One cannot **has one's cake and eats it too**. There is no perfect anti-epidemic strategy in the world. We must make up our mind in how to fight the virus before we can make our choice. As for Hong Kong's anti-epidemic battle, it is beyond doubt that "as long as Hong Kong asks, the Motherland will respond". But the SAR Government must strengthen its main responsibility in the battle and set a clear goal, so as to solicit citizens' support and create a way of fighting the virus that is best in keeping with Hong Kong's reality and protecting both Hong Kong's and the nation's interests. Frankly speaking, this is very difficult. Exactly because of this, it poses a test for the SAR Government's governance capability.

26 August 2022

## WORDS AND USAGE

• **Just/right around the corner** (idiom) – Imminent or likely to happen very soon. (近在眼前)

**Examples:**

- 1.He believes that an alien invasion is just around the corner and we should prepare ourselves for life on another planet.
- 2.Our company is devoted to the self-driving car, believing that its widespread use is right around the corner.

• **Push forward** (phrasal verb) –

To continue doing something or making progress in something, with effort or enthusiasm. (推進，推動)

**Examples:**

- 1.Their research has pushed forward the frontiers of knowledge.
- 2.They are trying to push forward reforms despite resistance from the older members.

• **Strike a balance** (between sth) (idiom) –

To give the correct amount of importance or attention to two separate things. (找到折衷辦法，求得平衡)

**Examples:**

- 1.He was finding it difficult to strike a balance between his family and his work.
- 2.It's a question of striking the right balance between quality and productivity.

• **Come in handy/useful** (idiom) –

To be especially useful, often in a particular setting or situation. (就手可用，派上用場)

**Examples:**

- 1.It was a lot colder out than I thought it would be, so your jacket really came in handy!
- 2.A little extra money would come in useful right now.

• **Have your cake and eat it (too)** (idiom) –

To have or do two good things at the same time that are impossible to have or do at the same time. (兩者兼得)

**Examples:**

- 1.You're never going to save enough money to buy a house if you keep buying expensive crap you don't need. You can't have your cake and eat it, too.
- 2.Too many people want to have their cake and eat it, demanding all sorts of social benefits from the government but being unwilling to pay any taxes to fund them.



## You ask me, me ask who?

在暑假期間跟學生討論有關中式英語衍生的問題。新學期開始，Miss Carol希望在這兩集討論中式／港式英語。

中式／港式英語——一般坊間理解成Chinglish/Kongish，是漢語／廣東話及英語的混合體，是一個非常獨特的中式／港式語文文化。很多時候也被認為是一種漢語翻譯英文的錯誤，也有人認為是一種非刻意的幽默 (unintentional humour)。

有些學生，甚至以英語為母語的人士認為中式英語是可以接受，只要對方清楚明白便不用理會英語文法。勉強來說，若果跟了解中文／華語的人說這類英語或是非正式的情況 (informal occasions)，或是他們想融入華語社區，他們有機會可以真的清楚明白意思。

有時候我們看到一些長者，或是沒有正式接受英語教育的人士，他們盡力以中式英語表達自己，其實這是值得欣賞的。所以建議要根據實際個別情況來接受或批評中式英語。

這兩集主要只是以Miss Carol見到的學生最常見的中式句子或詞彙作討論，讀者有其他建議或問題歡

迎電郵來信。

(一) 不太符合邏輯的例子：

在餐廳吃飯，侍應詢問有多少位客人。還有人會說 "I / We have 4 people." 可以改說，"There are 4 of us."或是"May I have a table for 4?" 開關電腦："Open/Close the computer." 可以改成："Turn on/Turn off the computer."

禁止吸煙喝酒："No smoking Drink." 英文翻譯出來似乎是指令句，「不可以吸煙但要喝酒」的意思。

可以改成："No smoking or drinking."

How did you get it?

I got it at Peter's English.

"I got it ..."好像染上了什麼疾病一樣，例如：I got the symptoms of COVID at home.

(二) 不需要的字眼：

我以前做過。

I did that before.

一般英語的用法是"I've done that".

"Before"是不需要的。

Anna已經四歲了。

Anna is 4 years old already.

"already"是不需要的。

我跟家人一起居住。

有同學會寫成："I live with my family together."

"Together"是不需要的。

相信讀者也曾見過這些有趣的中式英語，可以把它們以正統英語改過來嗎？

People mountain people sea.

Long time no see.

I give you face, you don't want face.

下集繼續……



續FUN英語