

MAC Clarifies Untrue Media Reports on School and Daily Life Difficulties Faced by Macao Students in Taiwan

News Reference Material

Date: May 19, 2021

The MAC issued a solemn clarification in response to untrue reports by certain media outlets saying that due to the recent resurgence of COVID-19 infection, Macao students in Taiwan have experienced difficulties in school and in life and are left confused, helpless, and stranded.

1. The Taiwan government has always placed great importance on the safety, health, and the right to education for Hong Kong and Macao students in Taiwan. The MAC has discussed the issue with the Ministry of Education (MOE) to actively coordinate with colleges and universities and further strengthen care for Hong Kong and Macao students in Taiwan regarding their needs in school or in life. So far, all colleges and universities in Taiwan have shifted to online instruction and adopted related measures to protect the right to education for students. The MAC will also work with the MOE to pay close attention to the development of the pandemic and the actual needs of the students as we assess the continual promotion of the "Study at Ease" project to fully safeguard the right to education for Hong Kong and Macao students.

2. The MAC has also been monitoring the physical and mental health of Hong Kong and Macao students through overseas Chinese students counseling mechanism and student associations at various universities. We have not found any shortages of supplies or difficulties in school or in life as described in some reports. In addition, some Macao students and organizations in Taiwan have

come forward and clarified that there is an ample supply of personal protective equipment (PPE) for COVID-19 in Taiwan. Certain media outlets deliberately distorted the facts and exaggerated their reports to mislead the public and cause excessive worry among students and parents. These reports clearly have ulterior motives.

3. Taiwan currently has sufficient healthcare resources and related supplies. The government is also sparing no effort in controlling the pandemic. The MAC called on Hong Kong and Macao students in Taiwan to comply with pandemic prevention measures; avoid crowded venues, gatherings, travel, and other assemblies; reduce nonessential movement between regions; and maintain the health of themselves and their cohabitants. It also urged the students to follow government news releases anytime, to not fall for rumors easily, and to not overly panic. Should they have any questions, they can report immediately to their school. Relevant government authorities will also do their best to provide proper assistance.