

新聞稿 PRESS RELEASE

TO NEWS EDITOR
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Chinese University to Survey Children's Growth

With the improvement of general health and nutritional status, existing growth reference charts for children that were prepared 30 years ago are now outdated. Identification of growth problems requires an updated ethnically appropriate growth reference for children from birth to 18 years. Therefore, the Department of Paediatrics of The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) decided to perform a large scale survey on children's growth in collaboration with the Department of Health. This project is also supported by Clinical Trials and Epidemiology Research Centre of the CUHK, Physicians of the CUHK, Paediatricians of the Hospital Authority, the Education Department and their participating schools.

Growth parameters to be measured include weight, height, sitting height, head circumference, skinfold thicknesses and secondary sexual characteristics. One kindergarten, one primary and one secondary school in each of the eighteen districts (excluding the outlying island) have been chosen to participate by random sampling. Each school visit will last one to three days from mid-February to mid-July. All students from the Fifth to the Seventh Forms will be examined, while only half will be involved for children below Form Five. In addition, infants and toddlers below 3 years will also be measured for weight, length, head circumference and skinfold thicknesses in eight Maternal and Child Health Centres.

To inform teachers and parents about the survey, a gathering for all the participating schools will be held on February 13, (Saturday) from 10am to 12 noon at Cultural Activity Hall of Shatin Town Hall. Demonstration of the equipment and procedure of examination will be followed by a talk on "Childhood Nutrition and Growth" to be delivered by Dr. Sophie Leung, the Chief Co-ordinator of this project. Interested persons please contact Miss Lo at 6362851.

For press enquiries, please contact Ms Annie Lam (Tel: 6097267) or Mrs Shirley Kwok (Tel: 6097294) of the Information Office of the CUHK.