

Seventy-one students awarded scholarship for excellence (with photos)

The Chief Executive, Mrs Carrie Lam, today (August 20) officiated at the Award Presentation Ceremony 2019 of the Hong Kong Scholarship for Excellence Scheme (HKSES). Seventy-one students were selected as the fifth cohort of awardees.

Speaking at the Ceremony, Mrs Lam said that given the resounding success of the previous four cohorts, the HKSES will be regularised from the 2019/20 academic year onwards, making it a permanent feature in the Government's nurturing of young people. She said that she looked to the awardees, the future generation, to drive business, innovation and technology, arts and culture, academic research and other meaningful activities in Hong Kong and beyond, and that she was confident that they will make significant long-term contributions to Hong Kong's reputation as a highly competitive, diverse and cosmopolitan city.

All the awardees received their formal secondary school education in Hong Kong, studying either local or non-local curricula. Among them, 56 will be pursuing undergraduate study and 15 postgraduate study at world-renowned universities.

The disciplines that they are going to pursue cover a wide spectrum, ranging from conventional ones such as law, social science, natural science, business management and STEM subjects to disciplines of study that are not available in Hong Kong, such as, history of art and archaeology, information experience design and cinema studies (moving image archiving and preservation). Distribution of the awardees by different disciplines is at Annex.

The diverse pool of scholarship recipients reflects the variety and vibrancy of Hong Kong. The contribution of this group of talents to the society after their graduation and homecoming is expected to fuel further and long-term development of Hong Kong in different aspects and facets.

Competition for the scholarships was keen and vigorous, with 813 applicants who will commence their undergraduate or postgraduate studies in the 2019/20 academic year vying for the title. The awardees have gone through a highly competitive process and demonstrated excellence in their academic and leadership qualities.

As the selection process is still ongoing, some more applicants may be offered the scholarship after today's ceremony. A list of the awardees as of August 20, 2019 has been uploaded on to the HKSES website (www.edb.gov.hk/hkses).

The HKSES aims to support local students to pursue studies at world-renowned universities outside Hong Kong with a view to grooming a top cadre of talents with global vision, an international network and world-class education, thereby contributing to enhancing Hong Kong's competitiveness as Asia's world city in a globalised knowledge economy. Key features of the scholarship scheme are available at the HKSES website.

Details of the next cohort applications for the HKSES will be announced shortly.



[North District Hospital responds to media enquiries on a patient case](#)

The following is issued on behalf of the Hospital Authority:

In response to media enquiries on a patient case, the spokesman for the North District Hospital (NDH) replied as follows:

A 62-year-old male patient escorted by police attended the Accident and Emergency Department (A&E) on June 25. The patient was sent to the Disturbed Patient Room for treatment and observation due to his unstable emotion and irritated behaviour, which had affected other A&E patients. The patient was guarded by police during the hospitalisation. Regular surveillance was conducted and no abnormal situation was noted by clinical staff. The patient was then sent to the observation ward around 9am and was discharged around 5pm on the next day (June 26).

The NDH received an enquiry from a councilor on June 27 regarding a

patient that had been treated inappropriately by police at the Disturbed Patient Room. On July 4, the NDH received an application from the councillor, who applied for a copy of CCTV footage on behalf of the patient concerned during hospitalisation at the Disturbed Patient Room. The hospital processed the application and released the footage on August 12 in accordance with the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance and the Hospital Authority's relevant code of practice. The NDH had liaised with the patient through councillor's office, who expressed that reporting to the police is not required.

The patient had not made any complaints to clinical staff and the hospital during hospitalisation. The hospital will fully co-operate with police in the investigation.

CHP investigates measles infection case

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health (DH) is today (August 20) investigating a case of measles infection.

The case involves a 42-year-old woman with good past health, who has developed a fever since August 12 and rash since August 15. She attended the Accident and Emergency Department at Queen Elizabeth Hospital on August 16 for medical attention.

Her blood sample tested positive for immunoglobulin M (IgM) antibodies to measles virus upon laboratory testing. She is in a stable condition. The patient's measles vaccination history is unknown. She had no travel history during the incubation period and the communicable period.

According to the patient, she did not have contact with measles patients during the incubation period. Her son had developed fever and rash in late July while her daughter had developed similar symptoms in early August. Both of them had sought medical advice from a general practitioner and had recovered. Her other home contacts have remained asymptomatic so far and have been put under medical surveillance.

Upon notification of the case, the CHP immediately commenced epidemiological investigations and conducted relevant contact tracing. Investigations are ongoing. The public places the patient visited during the communicable period are listed in the appendix.

A spokesman for the DH said, "Those who might have had contact with the patient during the period of communicability are urged to observe if they have developed measles-related symptoms, and to seek medical treatment immediately if such symptoms appear. If they need to visit any health care facilities during the period of medical surveillance, they should also report

whether they have symptoms and prior measles exposure history to the healthcare workers so that appropriate infection control measures can be implemented at the healthcare facilities concerned to prevent any potential spread."

The spokesman explained that measles is a highly infectious disease caused by the measles virus. It can be transmitted by airborne droplets or direct contact with nasal or throat secretions of infected persons, and, less commonly, by articles soiled with nose and throat secretions. A patient can pass the disease to other persons from four days before to four days after the appearance of skin rash.

"The incubation period (the period from infection to appearance of illness) of measles ranges from seven days to 21 days. Symptoms of measles include fever, skin rash, cough, runny nose and red eyes. If symptoms arise, members of the public should wear surgical masks, stop going to work or school and avoid going to crowded places. They should also avoid contact with non-immune persons, especially persons with weakened immunity, pregnant women and children aged below 1. Those suspected to have been infected are advised to seek medical attention as early as possible and reveal relevant contact history of measles to healthcare professionals," the spokesman advised.

"Vaccination is the most effective way to prevent measles. Members of the public who are planning to travel to places with high incidence or outbreaks of measles should review their vaccination history and past medical history, especially people born outside Hong Kong who might not have received measles vaccination during childhood. The history of measles vaccination in Hong Kong is available in the CHP's [measles thematic page](#). Those who have not received two doses of measles-containing vaccines, with unknown vaccination history or unknown immunity against measles are urged to consult their doctor for advice on vaccination at least two weeks before departure," the spokesman said.

Besides being vaccinated against measles, members of the public should take the following measures to prevent infection:

- Maintain good personal and environmental hygiene;
- Maintain good indoor ventilation;
- Keep hands clean and wash hands properly;
- Wash hands when they are dirtied by respiratory secretions, such as after sneezing;
- Cover the nose and mouth while sneezing or coughing and dispose of nasal and mouth discharge properly;
- Clean used toys and furniture properly; and
- Persons with measles should be kept out of school till four days from the appearance of a rash to prevent spread of the infection to non-immune persons in school.

For more information on measles, the public may call the 24-hour health education hotline 2833 0111 or visit the CHP's [measles thematic page](#). For news of measles outbreaks outside Hong Kong or the latest travel health

advice, please visit the website of the DH's [Travel Health Service](#).

Grant approved for flood victims in Nepal

The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region has accepted the advice of the Disaster Relief Fund Advisory Committee and approved from the Disaster Relief Fund a grant of \$3.009 million to Amity Foundation, Hong Kong for providing relief to flood victims in Nepal.

Announcing the grant today (August 20), a spokesman for the Government said that the grant will be used to provide food, tarpaulins, solar lights as well as hygiene items to the victims. The Committee hoped the grant would facilitate the provision of timely relief to the victims and help them restore their normal living.

"To ensure that the money is used for the designated purposes, Amity Foundation, Hong Kong will be asked to submit an evaluation report and an audited account on the use of the grant after the relief project has been completed," the spokesman said.

Air mail services to Afghanistan return to normal

Hongkong Post announced today (August 20) that air mail services (including letters and parcels) to Afghanistan have returned to normal with immediate effect.