

# HKSAR Government welcomes Ministry of Finance's issuance of sovereign bonds in Hong Kong

The Ministry of Finance announced today (June 17) its plan to issue Renminbi (RMB) sovereign bonds totalling RMB15 billion outside the Mainland this year, of which RMB5 billion will be issued in Hong Kong this week. Details will be announced later.

The Financial Secretary, Mr Paul Chan, said, "The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government welcomes the Ministry of Finance's issuance of RMB sovereign bonds in Hong Kong for the 11th consecutive year. This demonstrates clearly the Central Government's support in reinforcing Hong Kong's status as the global offshore RMB business hub, and is conducive to the development of the bond market in Hong Kong."

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## Update on cases of Legionnaires' disease

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health today (June 17) reported the latest number of cases of Legionnaires' disease (LD), and stressed the importance of using and maintaining properly designed man-made water systems, and that susceptible groups should strictly observe relevant precautions.

From June 9 to 15, six community-acquired LD cases were reported. They are:

1. A male patient, aged 63 with good past health, who lives in Ching Chung House, Cheung Ching Estate, Kwai Ching;
2. A male patient, aged 61 with underlying illnesses, who lives in Ching On House, Tsz Ching Estate, Wong Tai Sin;
3. A female patient, aged 88 with underlying illnesses, who lives in Kam Kwai House, Kam Fung Court, Sha Tin;
4. A male patient, aged 63 with underlying illnesses, who lives in Block 8, Aldrich Garden, Shau Kei Wan;
5. A male patient, aged 79 with underlying illnesses, who lives in Tsz Ping House, Tin Tsz Estate, Yuen Long; and
6. A male patient, aged 63 with underlying illnesses, who lives in Shun Hei House, Siu Hei Court, Tuen Mun.

"Epidemiological investigations are ongoing to identify potential

sources of infection, high-risk exposure and clusters, if any," a spokesman for the CHP said.

As of June 15, 39 LD cases had been reported in 2019. In 2018 and 2017, there were 105 and 72 cases respectively.

"Men, people aged over 50, smokers, alcoholics and persons with weakened immunity are more susceptible to LD. Some situations may also increase the risk of infection, including poor maintenance of water systems leading to stagnant water; living in areas with old water systems, cooling towers or fountains; using electric water heaters, whirlpools and spas or hot water spring spas; and recent stays in hotels or vessels," the spokesman said.

Legionellae are found in various environmental settings and grow well in warm water (20 to 45 degrees Celsius). They can be found in aqueous environments such as water tanks, hot and cold water systems, cooling towers, whirlpools and spas, water fountains and home apparatus which support breathing. People may get infected when they breathe in contaminated droplets (aerosols) and mist generated by artificial water systems, or when handling garden soil, compost and potting mixes.

Immunocompromised persons should:

- Use sterile or boiled water for drinking, tooth brushing and mouth rinsing;
- Avoid using humidifiers, or other mist- or aerosol-generating devices. A shower may also generate small aerosols; and
- If using humidifiers, or other mist- or aerosol-generating devices, fill the water tank with only sterile or cooled freshly boiled water, and not water directly from the tap. Also, clean and maintain humidifiers/devices regularly according to manufacturers' instructions. Never leave stagnant water in a humidifier/device. Empty the water tank, wipe all surfaces dry, and change the water daily.

The public should observe the health advice below:

- Observe personal hygiene;
- Do not smoke and avoid alcohol consumption;
- Strainers in water taps and shower heads should be inspected, cleaned, descaled and disinfected regularly or at a frequency recommended by the manufacturer;
- If a fresh water plumbing system is properly maintained, it is not necessary to install domestic water filters. Use of water filters is not encouraged as clogging occurs easily, which can promote growth of micro-organisms. In case water filters are used, the pore size should be 0.2 micrometres ( $\mu\text{m}$ ) and the filter needs to be changed periodically according to the manufacturer's recommendations;
- Drain and clean water tanks of buildings at least quarterly;
- Drain or purge for at least one minute infrequently used water outlets (e.g. water taps, shower heads and hot water outlets) and stagnant

- points of the pipework weekly or before use;
- Seek and follow doctors' professional advice regarding the use and maintenance of home respiratory devices and use only sterile water (not distilled or tap water) to clean and fill the reservoir. Clean and maintain the device regularly according to the manufacturer's instructions. After cleaning/disinfection, rinse the device with sterile water, cooled freshly boiled water or water filtered with 0.2 µm filters. Never leave stagnant water in the device. Empty the water tank, keep all surfaces dry, and change the water daily; and
  - When handling garden soil, compost and potting mixes:
    1. Wear gloves and a face mask;
    2. Water gardens and compost gently using low pressure;
    3. Open composted potting mixes slowly and make sure the opening is directed away from the face;
    4. Wet the soil to reduce dust when potting plants; and
    5. Avoid working in poorly ventilated places such as enclosed greenhouses.

The public may visit the CHP's [LD page](#), the [Code of Practice for Prevention of LD](#) and the [Housekeeping Guidelines for Cold and Hot Water Systems for Building Management](#) of the Prevention of LD Committee, and the CHP's [risk-based strategy](#) for prevention and control of LD.

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## **Lifesaving services suspended at Cafeteria New Beach and Cafeteria Old Beach**

Attention TV/radio announcers:

Please broadcast the following as soon as possible and repeat it at regular intervals:

The Leisure and Cultural Services Department announced today (June 17) that due to an insufficient number of lifeguards on duty, the lifesaving services at Cafeteria New Beach and Cafeteria Old Beach in Tuen Mun District have been suspended until further notice.

First aid services will be maintained at these beaches.

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# Hong Kong Customs seizes suspected dangerous drugs and suspected phenacetin (with photo)

Hong Kong Customs yesterday (June 16) seized about 2.4 kilograms of suspected cocaine, about 10 grams of suspected crack cocaine and about 200g of suspected phenacetin with a total estimated market value of about \$2.25 million in Kwai Chung.

During an anti-narcotics operation in Kwai Chung yesterday afternoon, Customs officers intercepted a man and found about 1kg of suspected cocaine inside a bag carried by him. The 26-year-old man was then arrested.

After follow-up investigation, Customs officers escorted the arrested man to a residential premises nearby where about 1.4kg of suspected cocaine, about 10g of suspected crack cocaine, about 200g of suspected phenacetin and a batch of drug packaging paraphernalia were further seized.

Investigation is ongoing.

Under the Dangerous Drugs Ordinance, trafficking in a dangerous drug is a serious offence. The maximum penalty upon conviction is a fine of \$5 million and life imprisonment.

Under the Pharmacy and Poisons Ordinance, any person who possesses any poison included in Part 1 of the Poisons List other than in accordance with provisions commits an offence. The maximum penalty upon conviction is a fine of \$100,000 and imprisonment for two years.

Members of the public may report any suspected drug trafficking activities to Customs' 24-hour hotline 2545 6182 or its dedicated crime-reporting email account ([crimereport@customs.gov.hk](mailto:crimereport@customs.gov.hk)).



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## Temporary traffic arrangements for tram track renewal works in Western District from next Monday

The Transport Department (TD) today (June 17) reminded the public that to facilitate tram track renewal work at Connaught Road West, parts of the traffic lanes of Des Voeux Road West and Connaught Road West will be temporarily closed from about 10am next Monday (June 24) to 10am on July 15 (Monday).

During the above works period, all vehicles exceeding 10 metres in length will be temporarily prohibited from turning left from Connaught Road West westbound onto Wing Lok Street and diverted via Des Voeux Road West westbound, Queen Street southbound, Queen's Road West westbound, Centre Street northbound, Des Voeux Road West eastbound, Queen Street northbound and Connaught Road West eastbound.

In addition, all vehicles exceeding 8m in length will be temporarily prohibited from turning right from Connaught Road West eastbound onto Des Voeux Road West westbound and diverted via Wing Lok Street eastbound, Morrison Street northbound and Connaught Road West westbound.

Appropriate traffic signs and road markings will be erected on-site to guide motorists.

The TD anticipates that the traffic in the vicinity of the above road sections will be relatively busy. Motorists should exercise tolerance and patience in case of traffic congestion. Members of the public are advised to be alert to the latest traffic news or the department's website ([www.td.gov.hk](http://www.td.gov.hk)).