

Key statistics on service demand of A&E Departments and occupancy rates in public hospitals

The following is issued on behalf of the Hospital Authority:

During the service demand surge, the Hospital Authority is closely monitoring the service demand of Accident and Emergency Departments and the occupancy rate in public hospitals. Key service statistics are being issued daily for public information. Details are in the appended table.

Red flags hoisted at several beaches

Attention TV/radio announcers:

Please broadcast the following as soon as possible:

Here is an item of interest to swimmers.

The Leisure and Cultural Services Department announced today (May 8) that due to big waves, red flags have been hoisted at Stanley Main Beach, Turtle Cove Beach, Shek O Beach and Big Wave Bay Beach in Southern District, Hong Kong Island; Tong Fuk Beach in Islands District; and Silverstrand Beach, Clear Water Bay First Beach and Clear Water Bay Second Beach in Sai Kung District. Beach-goers are advised not to swim at these beaches.

CHP investigates case of severe enterovirus 71 infection

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health (DH) is today (May 7) investigating a case of severe enterovirus (EV) 71 infection, and again urged the public and institutions to maintain strict hand, personal and environmental hygiene.

A female, aged 33 with good past health, has presented with fever, sore throat, rash and headache since May 2. She sought medical advice from a general practitioner on the same day. She attended the Accident and Emergency

Department of Yan Chai Hospital on May 4 and was admitted for management. The patient is now in a stable condition.

Her throat swab tested positive for EV71 upon laboratory testing. The clinical diagnosis was encephalitis.

Initial enquiries revealed that the patient had no travel history during the incubation period. Her son had hand, foot and mouth disease (HFMD) recently, who has sought medical advice and is in a stable condition. Her other home contacts have remained asymptomatic.

The CHP's investigations are ongoing.

"EV71 is one of the causative agents for HFMD. The infection is transmitted from person to person by direct contact with nose and throat discharges, saliva, fluid from blisters, or the stool of infected persons. Good personal and environmental hygiene are the most important measures to prevent EV71 infection," a spokesman for the CHP said.

"HFMD is common in children while adult cases may also appear. It is usually caused by enteroviruses such as Coxsackie virus and EV71. It is clinically characterised by maculopapular rashes or vesicular lesions occurring on the palms, soles and other parts of the body such as the buttocks and thighs. Vesicular lesions and ulcers may also be found in the oral cavity. Sometimes patients present mainly with painful ulcers at the back of the mouth, namely herpangina, without rash on the hands or feet," the spokesman said.

"The usual peak season for HFMD and EV71 infection is from May to July. A smaller peak may also occur from October to December. As young children are more susceptible, parents should stay alert to their health. Institutional outbreaks may occur where HFMD can easily spread among young children with close contact," the spokesman added.

To prevent HFMD, members of the public, especially the management of institutions, should take heed of the following preventive measures:

- * Maintain good air circulation;
- * Wash hands before meals and after going to the toilet or handling diapers or other stool-soiled materials;
- * Keep hands clean and wash hands properly, especially 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 oral discharges properly;
- * Regularly clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces such as furniture, toys and commonly shared items with 1:99 diluted household bleach (mixing one part of bleach containing 5.25 per cent sodium hypochlorite with 99 parts of water), leave for 15 to 30 minutes, and then rinse with water and keep dry. For metallic surfaces, disinfect with 70 per cent alcohol;
- * Use absorbent disposable towels to wipe away obvious contaminants such as respiratory secretions, vomitus or excreta, and then disinfect the surface and neighbouring areas with 1:49 diluted household bleach (mixing one part of

bleach containing 5.25 per cent sodium hypochlorite with 49 parts of water), leave for 15 to 30 minutes and then rinse with water and keep dry. For metallic surfaces, disinfect with 70 per cent alcohol;

* Children with EV71 infection are advised to refrain from going to schools or group activities such as parties, interest classes and swimming until two weeks after fever has subsided and all the vesicular lesions have dried and crusted to prevent the spread of disease;

* Avoid going to overcrowded places; and

* Parents should maintain close communication with schools to let them know the latest situation of the sick children.

The public may visit the CHP's page on [HFMD and EV71 infection](#) for more information.

[DH investigates case of undeclared Western drug ingredient detected in cream product seized at clinic of registered Chinese medicine practitioner \(with photo\)](#)

The Department of Health (DH) today (May 7) urged clients who consulted a registered Chinese medicine practitioner (CMP), Chiu Chi-chung (also known as Chiu-Kwong-ching or Chiu Yu-pang), practising at Flat A, 5/F, Nathan Tower, 518-520 Nathan Road, Yau Ma Tei, Kowloon, should take note of a cream product he prescribed as it contained an undeclared Western drug ingredient.

Acting upon intelligence, the DH raided the above CMP's clinic and seized a quantity of cream products for analysis. Test result from the Government Laboratory confirmed that sample of an unlabelled yellow cream product (see photo) contained an undeclared Western drug ingredient "Clobetasol propionate". According to information provided by the CMP, he has not supplied the cream product to any patient. The investigations are ongoing.

"Clobetasol propionate" is a corticosteroid and prescription medicine for treating inflammation. Inappropriate use of corticosteroids may cause serious side effects such as Cushing's syndrome, with symptoms including moon face and muscle atrophy," a spokesman for the DH explained.

According to the Pharmacy and Poisons Ordinance (Cap 138), illegal possession of Part I poisons is a criminal offence. The maximum penalty for the offence is a fine of \$100,000 and two years' imprisonment. Upon

completion of the investigations, the DH will consult the Department of Justice on prosecution matters. The DH would refer the case to the Chinese Medicine Council of Hong Kong for consideration of possible disciplinary action.

Members of the public who have been prescribed with medicines by the above CMP who feel unwell or are in doubt should consult health-care professionals as soon as possible. They may submit the medicines to the DH's Chinese Medicine Division at 16/F, AIA Kowloon Tower, Landmark East, 100 How Ming Street, Kwun Tong, Kowloon, during office hours for disposal.



[FS visits Kwai Tsing District \(with photos\)](#)

The Financial Secretary, Mr Paul Chan, visited Kwai Tsing District this afternoon (May 7), calling at a local enterprise and a secondary school.

Accompanied by the Chairman of the Kwai Tsing District Council (K&TDC), Mr Law King-shing, and the District Officer (Kwai Tsing), Mr Kenneth Cheng, Mr Chan first visited a local food manufacturer with its own brand, where he toured around the factory and exchanged views with management to better understand the history and development of the brand and the factory's operation.

Mr Chan said that Hong Kong brands have a strong reputation for their quality, design and innovation, both on the Mainland of China and worldwide. The Government is committed to providing a favourable business environment and firm support for local enterprises, helping them to explore and capture various opportunities for development, he added. Mr Chan said he sought to inject another \$1 billion into the Dedicated Fund on Branding, Upgrading and Domestic Sales (BUD Fund) this year, following the introduction of \$1.5 billion in the 2018-19 Budget, as well as extending its scope to include the

Mainland of China, Association of Southeast Asian Nations countries and all economies which have entered into a Free Trade Agreement with Hong Kong. Moreover, a number of enhancement measures for the SME Export Marketing Fund have been implemented to assist small and medium enterprises in exploring new markets and business opportunities, including increasing the cumulative funding ceiling for each enterprise and the maximum grant amount for each application.

Mr Chan then visited SKH Lam Woo Memorial Secondary School, where he enjoyed a music performance by students and chatted with teachers and students.

Before concluding his visit, Mr Chan met with members of the K&TDC to exchange views on various livelihood and development issues in the district.

