<u>Special traffic arrangements on Hong Kong Island</u>

Police will implement special traffic arrangements this Sunday (May 5) to facilitate a public order event to be held on Hong Kong Island.

The following roads will be intermittently closed from about 3.15pm until the crowd has dispersed and traffic resumes normal:

- Westbound Yee Wo Street;
- Jardine's Bazaar;
- Westbound Hennessy Road;
- Westbound Queensway; and
- Bank Street.

Vehicles may not be permitted to access or leave car parks along the route during the road closure period.

Actual implementation of the traffic arrangements will be made depending on traffic and crowd conditions in the area. Motorists are advised to exercise tolerance and patience and take heed of instructions of the Police on site.

<u>Meetings of Legislative Council and</u> its Committees

The following is issued on behalf of the Legislative Council Secretariat:

The Legislative Council (LegCo) and its Committees will hold 21 open meetings, a public hearing and two closed meetings during the week from May 6 to 10 in the LegCo Complex. Details of the meetings are available in the meeting schedule attached.

The information in the meeting schedule is subject to change. Please refer to the "LegCo Calendar" on the LegCo Website (www.legco.gov.hk) for the latest details of meetings.

Members of the public are welcome to observe open meetings of LegCo and its Committees. Interested individuals and groups are advised to make advance booking of seats by calling the LegCo Secretariat at 3919 3399 during office hours. Members of the public can also listen to or watch all open meetings via the "Webcast" system on the LegCo Website.

<u>Grading of beach water quality</u> released

The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) today (May 3) released the latest grading of water quality of 38 gazetted beaches that are open for swimming and one non-gazetted beach (i.e. Discovery Bay*).

Eighteen beaches were rated as good (grade 1) and 21 as fair (grade 2).

Grade 1 beaches are:

Chung Hom Kok Beach
Deep Water Bay Beach
Discovery Bay
Hap Mun Bay Beach
Hung Shing Yeh Beach
Kiu Tsui Beach
Kwun Yam Beach
Lo So Shing Beach
Lower Cheung Sha Beach

Pui O Beach
Repulse Bay Beach
Shek O Beach
South Bay Beach
St Stephen's Beach
Stanley Main Beach
Tong Fuk Beach
Trio Beach
Upper Cheung Sha Beach

Grade 2 beaches are:

Anglers' Beach
Approach Beach
Big Wave Bay Beach
Butterfly Beach
Cafeteria New Beach
Cafeteria Old Beach
Casam Beach
Castle Peak Beach
Cheung Chau Tung Wan Beach
Clear Water Bay First Beach

Hoi Mei Wan Beach
Kadoorie Beach
Lido Beach
Ma Wan Tung Wan Beach
Middle Bay Beach
Silver Mine Bay Beach
Silverstrand Beach
Ting Kau Beach

Turtle Cove Beach

Golden Beach

Clear Water Bay Second Beach

^{*} Discovery Bay is a non-gazetted beach without lifeguard service.

Compared with the grading released last week, Shek O Beach has been upgraded from grade 2 to grade 1; Castle Peak Beach from grade 3 to grade 2. Cafeteria New Beach, Clear Water Bay Second Beach, Lido Beach, Ma Wan Tung Wan Beach, Middle Bay Beach and Turtle Cove Beach have been changed from grade 1 to grade 2.

"The changes are generally within the normal range of fluctuation of the bacteriological water quality of the beaches," an EPD spokesman said.

Under the present grading system, beaches are classified into four grades according to the level of E. coli in the water. Grades are calculated on the basis of the geometric mean of the E. coli counts on the five most recent sampling occasions.

While the ratings represent the general water quality at the beaches, the EPD spokesman reminded members of the public that water quality could be temporarily affected during and after periods of heavy rain. Bathers should avoid swimming at beaches for up to three days after a storm or heavy rainfall.

A summary of beach grades is published weekly before the weekend. Latest beach grades based on the most current data may be obtained from the department's website on Beach Water Quality (www.epd.gov.hk/epd/beach) or the beach hotline, 2511 6666.

Hong Kong Customs seizes suspected illicit heat-not-burn products (with photo)

Hong Kong Customs yesterday (May 2) seized about 48 000 suspected illicit heat-not-burn (HNB) products and about 250 suspected illicit HNB capsules with an estimated market value of about \$140,000 and a duty potential of about \$90,000 at Hong Kong International Airport.

Two male passengers arrived in Hong Kong from Osaka, Japan yesterday evening. During Customs clearance, the batch of suspected illicit HNB products were found inside the luggage carried by them. The two 50-year-old men were then arrested.

Investigation is ongoing.

Customs reminds members of the public that under the Dutiable Commodities Ordinance (DCO), tobacco is dutiable goods to which DCO applies. Any HNB products containing tobacco in content is also dutiable goods subject to the control of DCO. Any person who possesses, sells or buys dutiable commodities without a valid license commits an offence. The maximum penalty upon conviction is a fine of \$1 million and imprisonment for two years.

Members of the public may call the Customs' hotline 2815 7711 regarding whether specific tobacco or smoking product is under the regulation of DCO. They may also report any suspected violation of the DCO to the Customs' 24-hour hotline 2545 6182 or its dedicated crime-reporting email account (crimereport@customs.gov.hk).



CHP investigates case of severe paediatric enterovirus infection

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health is today (May 3) investigating a case of severe paediatric enterovirus (EV) infection, and again urged the public and institutions to maintain strict hand, personal and environmental hygiene.

The case involves a 10-year-old boy with good past health, who has presented with fever, vomiting and headache since April 28. He was taken to the Accident and Emergency Department of Kwong Wah Hospital on April 29 and was admitted for management. The patient has been in a stable condition.

His cerebrospinal fluid specimen tested positive for EV upon laboratory testing. The clinical diagnosis were meningitis.

Initial enquiries revealed that the patient had travelled to Jiangmen during incubation period. Other home contacts have remained asymptomatic so far. Investigations are ongoing.

A spokesman for the CHP said that as EV infection is transmitted by direct contact with nose and throat discharges, the public should be vigilant and observe the following preventive measures:

- Wash hands before eating and after going to the toilet and changing diapers;
- Cover the mouth and nose when coughing and sneezing;
- Maintain good ventilation; and
- Thoroughly clean toys or appliances which are contaminated by nasal or oral secretions.

Children suffering from EV infection should stay at home and avoid contact with other children until they have recovered.

The public may visit the CHP's page on <u>hand</u>, <u>foot and mouth disease and EV71 infection</u> for more information.