

Update on measles cases

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health (DH) today (March 25) reported the latest developments in its investigations into measles cases and reminded the public again that vaccination is the most effective way to prevent measles.

A spokesman for the CHP said, "The CHP has continued to closely follow up on the outbreak of measles infection concerning people working at the Hong Kong International Airport announced last week. At a meeting with the Airport Authority (AA) and airline sector this morning, CHP representatives briefed them on the latest situation of the measles cases and the CHP's control and prevention measures at the airport, and provided them with relevant health advice and information on disease prevention."

As a key measure of outbreak control, the CHP has started providing vaccination to people working at the airport who are non-immune to measles since last Friday. The vaccination exercise aims to protect those non-immune to measles. The target group refers to people working at the airport who are:

1. Born in 1967 to 1984;
2. Have not received two doses of measles vaccination; and
3. Have not been infected with measles before.

"For those who were born before 1967 in Hong Kong, it is expected that the majority of them have contracted measles in the past, and thus have antibodies against measles. Those who have received two doses of measles-containing vaccine, including the majority of people born in 1985 or after, will also have sufficient protection against measles in general," the spokesman explained.

The CHP has set up two vaccination stations at the airport to facilitate those in need and will continue to closely liaise with the AA to explore ways to further enhance the vaccination arrangements. From today till Friday (March 25-29), those non-immune to measles working at the airport may receive measles vaccination at Port Health Office Health Post (South Arrival Apron Passenger Vehicle Lounge, Level 4, Terminal 1) and Multi-function Room, HKIA Tower, Level 5, Terminal 2 from 10am to 1pm and 2 to 5pm. The CHP will closely monitor and review the vaccination progress for people working at the airport. Arrangement after March 29 will be announced in due course.

From last Friday to yesterday (March 24), around 400 persons received measles vaccination at the vaccination station and 484 persons received the vaccination today. A hotline (2125 1122) is set up for public enquiries and operates from 9am to 5.45pm daily. As of 5pm today, the hotline received 550 enquiries.

On the supply of measles vaccines in Hong Kong, the DH maintains close liaison with the vaccine suppliers and learnt that the vaccine supply is currently stable. The DH has requested the suppliers to import extra quantities of measles vaccines to meet the local demand.

The spokesman said, "The CHP has issued letters to doctors and private hospitals today to provide them with the latest information on measles cases in Hong Kong. They are urged to implement appropriate infection control measures and reminded to notify the CHP of any suspected or confirmed cases. The CHP also provided contact information of measles vaccine suppliers to the private doctors."

The CHP's epidemiological investigations into the measles cases announced previously are ongoing. On the measles case announced yesterday involving a 27-year-old man, the public places he visited during the communicable period are listed below:

Date	Time	Place	End of medical surveillance for contacts
March 20	8.30am – 8.45am	Clinic of Dr Chan Lai-man (Room 3135, Lok Fu Shopping Centre, 3/F, Lok Fu, Kowloon)	April 10
March 21	8.40am – 9.05am	Clinic of Dr Chan Lai-man (Room 3135, Lok Fu Shopping Centre, 3/F, Lok Fu, Kowloon)	April 11
	3pm – 3.45pm	Town Health Integrated Medical Centre (Wong Tai Sin) (Shop 1, G/F, Kai Tak Garden Phase II, 121 Choi Hung Road, Wong Tai Sin, Kowloon)	

The spokesman explained that measles is a highly infectious disease caused by the measles virus. It can be transmitted by airborne droplets spread 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 spokesman reminded, "The incubation period of measles ranges from seven days to up to 21 days. Contacts who are not immune to measles may develop relevant symptoms, such as fever, skin rash, cough, runny nose and red eyes, in the incubation period. They should observe if they develop such symptoms in the period. If symptoms arise, they should wear surgical masks,

stop going to work or school and avoid going to crowded places. They should avoid contact with non-immune persons, especially persons with weakened immunity, pregnant women and children aged below one. They should also report their symptoms and prior travel history to the healthcare workers so that appropriate infection control measures can be implemented at the healthcare facilities to prevent any potential spread."

"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 with 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 rash to prevent spread of the infection to non-immune persons in school.

For more information on measles, please visit the CHP's [measles thematic page](#). For outbreak news of measles outside Hong Kong or the latest travel health advice, please visit the website of DH's [Travel Health Service](#).

[Hong Kong Visual Arts Centre to host “Emergency Kit & Wishing Pool” media art performance](#)

To make media art more accessible to the public, as well as explore different forms of inclusive art, the Hong Kong Visual Arts Centre (HKVAC) has invited media artist GayBird to collaborate with musicians and performers

to present "Emergency Kit & Wishing Pool", a performance creatively blending music, video, installations, lighting and other effects.

At a preview of "Emergency Kit & Wishing Pool" today (March 25), emotions, imagination and hopes for the city were expressed through a performance that combined music with various artistic elements.

Set at the swimming pool of the Hong Kong PHAB Association Jockey Club PHAB Camp in Pok Fu Lam, the performers moved in the water and at the poolside to express with bodily movements their feelings about their lives and their hopes. The ambience was enhanced with a delightful musical performance by the pool, offering the audience a unusual audio-visual adventure.

The enrolment quotas are full for the three public shows taking place from tomorrow (March 26) to March 28. Those interested are encouraged to view the final public show through a live broadcast on HKVAC's Facebook page or on the outdoor television walls outside Broadway Cinema in Mongkok, Hilton Towers in Tsim Sha Tsui, and in the 5/F lobby at the Hong Kong Visual Arts Centre at 8pm on March 28.

The programme is presented by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department and organised by the HKVAC. For details of the programme, please visit HKVAC's Facebook page or www.lcsd.gov.hk/CE/Museum/AP0/en_US/web/apo/va_emergency_kit_wishing_pool.html or call 2521 3008.

HA implements contingency measures amid increasing cases of measles

The following is issued on behalf of the Hospital Authority:

In view of the recent surge in measles cases, the Central Committee on Infectious Disease and Emergency Responses of the Hospital Authority (HA) today (March 25) convened an ad hoc meeting, which was joined by representatives from the Centre for Health Protection (CHP), to discuss the risk assessment and preparedness of public hospitals.

It was agreed that measures need to be implemented in public hospitals for early diagnosis and isolation of possible measles cases and to provide vaccinations to staff in need, including those who have never been vaccinated or those with inadequate immunity, to reduce the risk of nosocomial infections.

The spokesperson for HA said notifications as well as updated disease information have been issued earlier to remind frontline healthcare staff to

be vigilant towards patient with symptoms of measles. Suspected cases will need to be reported and treated under isolation with specimens sent to the Public Health Laboratory Services Branch of CHP for testing.

"Healthcare staff measles vaccination programme will commence next week. Vaccinations will be provided to staff working in high risk departments, such as paediatric, obstetrics and gynaecology, haematology, clinical oncology, intensive care units and isolation wards in the first phase."

According to information provided by the CHP, there are people who have never been vaccinated while local residents born between the year 1967 and 1978 do not have sufficient immunity against measles due to their single dose vaccination.

The HA will continue to closely collaborate with CHP to monitor the development and keep the general public and professionals posted of the most updated situation and relevant information. The enhanced measures will be reviewed accordingly in due course.

16th Venice Biennale International Architecture Exhibition – Hong Kong Response Exhibition opens at City Gallery (with photos)

The 16th Venice Biennale International Architecture Exhibition – Hong Kong Response Exhibition "Vertical Fabric: Density in Landscape" is now open and will run until April 22 at the City Gallery in Central. The exhibition involves the installation of 116 tower models along Edinburgh Place in Central and into the City Gallery with the aim of creatively illustrating Hong Kong's unique urban form.

The Acting Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development, Dr Bernard Chan, officiated as guest of honour at an opening ceremony for the Hong Kong Response Exhibition today (March 25). Other officiating guests included the Director of Planning, Mr Raymond Lee; the Acting Head of Create Hong Kong, Ms Fiona Lam; the President of the Hong Kong Institute of Architects, Mr Felix Li; the Chairman of the Hong Kong Institute of Architects Biennale Foundation, Mr Franklin Yu; and the Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Arts Development Council, Ms Winsome Chow. The Deputy Director-General of the Department of Educational, Scientific and Technological Affairs of the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, Mr Xiao Jiahong, also attended the ceremony.

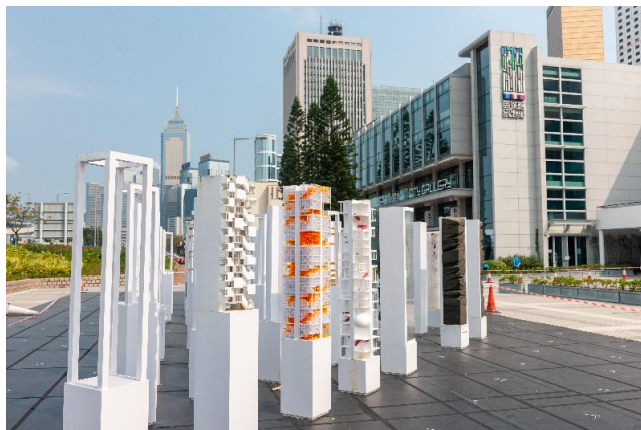
In Venice last year, the 16th Venice Biennale International Architecture Exhibition – Hong Kong Exhibition "Vertical Fabric: Density in Landscape" showcased Hong Kong's unique architectural features. The Hong Kong Response Exhibition has brought those works shown at the Venice Biennale back to the heart of Hong Kong for public viewing and to explore "free space" through Hong Kong's vertical towers.

The 116 tower models were designed by 89 groups of architects from Hong Kong and around the world, and were created on three different structural bases with a variety of architectural elements added. Every exhibit demonstrates the architects' innovations and vision through vertical architecture and free space.

To tie in with the exhibition, the City Gallery will hold a series of forums and workshops to enhance public understanding of Hong Kong's architectural landscape and urban development. For more information, please visit the City Gallery's website at www.citygallery.gov.hk, its Facebook page ([www.fb.com/hkcitygallery](https://www.facebook.com/hkcitygallery)) or its Instagram account (www.instagram.com/citygalleryhk), or call 3102 1242.

The Hong Kong Response Exhibition is jointly organised by the Hong Kong Institute of Architects Biennale Foundation, the Hong Kong Arts Development Council and the Planning Department, with the Hong Kong Institute of Architects as the partner and Create Hong Kong as the leading sponsor. The exhibition, curated by Professor Weijen Wang, Mr Thomas Chung and Mr Thomas Tsang, will move to the Hong Kong Heritage Discovery Centre, Tsim Sha Tsui, on April 26 and run until June 23.





[LegCo to debate motion on requesting the Government to shelve the formulation of arrangements for the surrender of fugitive offenders between Mainland China and Hong Kong](#)

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

The Legislative Council (LegCo) will hold a meeting on Wednesday (March 27) at 11am in the Chamber of the LegCo Complex. During the meeting, Members will debate a motion on requesting the Government to shelve the formulation of arrangements for the surrender of fugitive offenders between Mainland China and Hong Kong.

The motion, moved by Mr Alvin Yeung, states: "That, as Mainland China has not yet implemented judicial independence and fair trial, in order to safeguard Hong Kong's internationally recognised reputation for rule of law under 'one country, two systems', and to protect the human rights of Hong Kong people and individuals travelling to and from Hong Kong, this Council requests the Government to shelve the formulation of any extradition arrangement permitting Hong Kong to surrender fugitive offenders to Mainland China."

Ms Claudia Mo and Mr James To will move separate amendments to Mr Alvin Yeung's motion.

Mr Ip Kin-yuen will move a motion on reviewing the implementation of school-based management. The motion states: "That the recent incident of a teacher jumping to death in school has aroused extensive concern in society, and under the school-based management system, the teaching staff faces unfair treatment and their complaints are not handled effectively; the original

intent of the school-based management system is to 'put in place a more open, accountable and participatory school management structure', and through the devolvement of responsibilities, schools can enjoy greater flexibility and autonomy in school management and use of resources, and schools can build up a management approach to complement school development based on their background, history and needs; in order to support the implementation of school-based management, the Government brought into effect the Education (Amendment) Ordinance 2004 on January 1, 2005 to provide the legal basis for the governance framework of school-based management and require all aided schools to each set up an Incorporated Management Committee (IMC) for school management; in fact, most school principals in Hong Kong have worked wholeheartedly and shown excellent performance, but as greater autonomy and responsibilities are devolved to schools and due to a lack of check and balance in the school-based management system, incidents of alleged abuse of powers by IMCs or the school management have occurred one after another, and the complaints from the teaching staff and even those from school principals have not been handled effectively, and yet the Education Bureau has shirked its responsibilities on the pretext of showing respect to school-based management and returned the complaints to the schools for their own handling, arousing widespread discontent in the education sector; in fact, the Education Bureau has pointed out that there are 'individual schools whose school managers lack the required knowledge and skills in school management, thus affecting the quality of school governance...there are isolated cases in which supervisors cannot perform effectively the functions as stipulated in the Education Ordinance, or on certain occasions disregard the Education Bureau's advice. Incompetent IMCs/supervisors may give room for school principals to wield too much power without proper check and balance or becoming too laid-back, thus adversely affecting the quality of school governance and management'; in this connection, this Council urges the Government to improve the policy of school-based management and the existing complaint mechanism, protect teachers from unfair treatment at an institutional level and foster a caring work environment with mutual trust in schools; the relevant measures should include:

(1) while considering the views submitted by the Task Force on School-based Management Policy, conducting a comprehensive review of the school-based management system to ensure proper check and balance on the governance power of schools, increase the transparency of school governance and the participation by teachers, and value the views of teachers, thereby giving play to the concept of 'participatory school management';

(2) proactively discharging the monitoring responsibilities in handling school complaints to ensure that schools will act in accordance with the requirements under the Codes of Aid, the relevant ordinances and so on, while proactively looking for the truth such that a fair outcome can be achieved for complaints;

(3) urging IMCs to each establish an independent panel of inquiry for handling serious complaint cases, with the inclusion of independent persons in its membership;

(4) increasing the opportunities for teachers to participate in school

policies, and ensuring that teacher representatives in IMCs must be returned by democratic elections with full right of participation, and that they are afforded respect and protection in their expression of views and involvement in school policies;

(5) restoring the consultative mechanism between teacher representatives and management committees and the one between teacher representatives and the Education Bureau;

(6) positively promoting good management and a culture of participation in schools; and

(7) facing up to the aspirations of the education sector over the years and expeditiously establishing an independent and professional General Teaching Council."

Mr Ho Kai-ming, Mr Cheung Kwok-kwan and Mr Hui Chi-fung will move separate amendments to Mr Ip Kin-yuen's motion.

On Government Motion, the Secretary for Transport and Housing will move a motion on implementing the Toll Adjustment Proposal. The motion states: "Regarding the Government's proposal to adjust the tolls of private cars, taxis and motorcycles for using the three road harbour crossings with effect from January 1, 2020 (Toll Adjustment Proposal) with a view to rationalising cross-harbour traffic which will bring about benefits to society as a whole, with expected benefits including alleviating cross-harbour traffic congestion, reducing the obstruction of non-cross-harbour traffic by cross-harbour traffic queues, saving the commuting time for citizens using public transport and reducing emission from vehicles, etc., this Council supports the Government to introduce into this Council legislative amendments relating to the Cross-Harbour Tunnel and Eastern Harbour Crossing for the implementation of the Toll Adjustment Proposal, and to seek funding approval from the Finance Committee for the Western Harbour Crossing Toll Compensation Scheme."

Mr Jeremy Tam, Mr Luk Chung-hung, Mr Gary Fan, Mr Chan Han-pan and Mr Au Nok-hin will move separate amendments to the Secretary for Transport and Housing's motion.

On Government Bill, the Broadcasting and Telecommunications Legislation (Amendment) Bill 2019 will be introduced into the Council for the First Reading and the Second Reading. The Second Reading debate on the Bill will be adjourned.

During the meeting, Members will also ask the Government 22 questions on various policy areas, six of which require oral replies.

The agenda of the above meeting can be obtained via the LegCo Website (www.legco.gov.hk). Please note that the agenda is subject to change, and the latest information about the agenda could be found on the LegCo Website.

Members of the public are welcome to observe the proceedings of the

meeting from the public galleries of the Chamber of the LegCo Complex. They may reserve seats by calling 3919 3399 during office hours. Members of the public can also watch or listen to the meeting via the "Webcast" system on the LegCo Website.