

Effective Exchange Rate Index

The effective exchange rate index for the Hong Kong dollar on Tuesday, March 12, 2019 is 103.4 (down 0.1 against yesterday's index).

Special opening hours of Tom Lee URBTIX outlets on March 19

The Leisure and Cultural Services Department announced today (March 12) that due to Tom Lee's corporate event on the night of March 19 (Tuesday), all URBTIX outlets at Tom Lee branches will close at 5.30pm that day and open as usual on the next day (March 20).

The opening hours of URBTIX outlets at other venues will remain normal on March 19. Tickets can also be purchased via the website www.urbtix.hk and the mobile ticketing app throughout the day, and on the credit card telephone hotline 2111 5999 from 10am to 8pm daily.

DH actively follows up on Ombudsman's recommendations

The Department of Health is following up on the recommendations by the Office of the Ombudsman in its direct investigation report released today (March 12) on the follow-up mechanism regarding psychological health assessment of school children. Measures have been put in place to improve the mechanism for the benefit of students' psychological health.

A spokesman for the DH said, "We thank the Office for undertaking the review and appreciate its observations on the follow-up mechanism. In response to the recommendations, a number of measures have been implemented to more closely follow up and better serve students who are assessed to have psychological health problems."

The Student Health Service (SHS) of the DH provides health promotion and disease prevention services including annual health assessment and psychological health assessment for enrolled primary and secondary school children at 12 Student Health Service Centres (SHSCs). Students found to have

psychosocial problems will be referred to the Special Assessment Centres (SACs), specialist clinics of the Hospital Authority (HA), school social workers or other appropriate organisations for further management.

"To enhance the attendance rate and communication, the SHS is planning to send SMS messages to parents, tentatively from mid-2019, to remind them of their children's upcoming assessments and to advise those who failed to attend to make new appointments. With effect from the 2019/20 school year, the DH will also provide schools and the Education Bureau with information on aggregate attendance rates of annual health assessment of students," the spokesman said.

"The computer system of the SHS will also be upgraded to allow for uploading of individual reports on Personal Health Assessment Results and Recommendations for checking by parents and students. The DH is also exploring the possibility of enabling parents to conduct online enrolment and scheduling or re-scheduling appointments for annual health assessment," the spokesman added.

Regarding the following up of referred cases, the DH launched a pilot scheme in four SHSCs last year to proactively contact the cases referred to the psychiatry service of the HA to understand the school children's circumstances. The scheme will be rolled out to all centres starting from the 2019/20 school year to enhance follow-up of referred cases.

"The attendance rates of the health assessment services have been rising in the past seven years, and the DH has all along been striving to enhance its services and improve the attendance rate in that regard. The DH will continue to seriously examine improvement measures for enhancing its services, including the recommendations by the Ombudsman," the spokesman said.

Office of The Ombudsman press conference (with photos)

The following is issued on behalf of the Office of The Ombudsman:

The Ombudsman, Ms Connie Lau, held a press conference this morning (March 12) to announce the results of two direct investigations, namely "Government's Follow-up Mechanism Regarding Psychological Health Assessment of School Children" and "Marine Department's Arrangements for Private Vessel Moorings". The reports are available on the Office of The Ombudsman's website: ofomb.ombudsman.hk/abc/en-us/news.



Temporary suspension of self-service library station services

The self-service library station located at Island East Sports Centre Sitting-out Area will suspend services from 11am to 5pm tomorrow (March 13) and the station located at the Hong Kong Cultural Centre in Tsim Sha Tsui will suspend services from 10am to 8pm on March 19 (Tuesday) for regular maintenance, a spokesman for the Leisure and Cultural Services Department announced today (March 12).

During the service suspension period, readers are welcome to use other public libraries to borrow or return library materials. They may also renew library materials by telephoning 2698 0002 or 2827 2833 or via www.hkpl.gov.hk.