

Government House open to the public on November 25

Government House will be open to the public on November 25 (Sunday) from 10am to 5pm.

Visitors will be able to view the well-nurtured flowers and trees in the garden and the landscaped area of Government House, and see the places where the Chief Executive holds official functions and receives dignitaries. There will also be guided tours by the Antiquities and Monuments Office on the history and architectural features of the distinguished building.

"On the open day, visitors will be able to enjoy music performances by the Hong Kong Police Band and student ensembles as well as magic shows. Display boards and QR codes will be set up along the visitors' route to share details of the history, architecture and important moments of Government House. Visitors may use their smartphones or other mobile devices with suitable software to browse information about Government House," a government spokesman said.

"For the first time, souvenir chops featuring Government House will be available at specific locations along the visitors' route. Visitors may bring along paper for stamping." (A photo of one of the stamps is attached for reference.)

The spokesman added that as a large number of visitors are anticipated on the day, queuing outside Government House may be stopped before 5pm so that those waiting in the queue can be admitted in time.

Visitors will enter the garden through the east gate on Upper Albert Road and leave through the main gate of Government House. The visitors' routing is one-way only. They are encouraged to arrive by public transport or on foot. Water dispensers will be available at the venue. To care for the environment, no disposable cups will be provided. Visitors are welcome to bring their own bottles.

Visitors may visit the website of Government House (www.ceo.gov.hk/gh/eng) for details of the open day.

Government House is a declared monument under the Antiquities and Monuments Ordinance.

USFH observes enhanced outreach vaccination activity at school (with photos)

The Under Secretary for Food and Health, Dr Chui Tak-yi, said today (November 20) that the Enhanced Vaccination Subsidy Scheme (VSS) Outreach Vaccination and the School Outreach Vaccination Pilot Programme launched by the Government this year are currently expected to provide vaccination service to a total of 352 primary schools and 128 kindergartens/child care centres, a sharp increase in the number of participating schools from last year.

Dr Chui and the Controller of the Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health, Dr Wong Ka-hing, visited St Eugene de Mazenod Oblate Primary School in To Kwa Wan this afternoon to observe 382 pupils of the school receiving seasonal influenza vaccination (SIV) provided by the School of Public Health of the University of Hong Kong (HKU).

Dr Chui said, "HKU's School of Public Health joined the Enhanced VSS Outreach Vaccination this year to provide outreach vaccination service to schools. We are grateful to the School and other organisations for joining hands with the Government to promote SIV and to enhance the vaccination coverage among pupils.

"The Enhanced VSS Outreach Vaccination provides SIV to pupils with convenience and further simplifies the administrative process of schools. Schools can invite participating doctors from a list published by the CHP to arrange outreach SIV service at their campus without the need to go through a tendering process. No extra service fees will be charged by the doctors to schools or pupils.

"Participation of schools with the support of parents and the medical sector is the key to raising vaccination coverage.

"Members of the public should get prepared for the winter influenza peak season. Vaccination is one of the most effective ways to prevent seasonal influenza and its complications. Based on previous epidemiological and clinical experiences, vaccinating schoolchildren can reduce influenza-related complications, hospitalisations and deaths, and potentially reduce absenteeism and influenza transmission in the community."

The Government will provide a subsidy of \$250 per dose and an additional subsidy of \$800 for clinical waste disposal per outreach vaccination activity to doctors participating in the Enhanced VSS Outreach Vaccination.

Dr Wong said, "The CHP had been monitoring the safety and service quality of outreach vaccination activities. Guidelines for enrolled doctors

and organisers of outreach activities in non-clinic settings are in place. The CHP's officers conduct regular site inspections to ensure quality assurance."

Parents can also bring their kids to private doctors enrolled in the VSS for vaccination if they could not receive vaccination on campus. Moreover, the eligible groups of the VSS this year have been extended to Hong Kong residents aged 50 or above. Enrolled private doctors can provide vaccination at a government subsidy of \$210 per dose of SIV to eligible groups either in their clinics, or organise outreach activities.

As it takes about two weeks for antibodies to develop in the body after vaccination, the Government call on parents to arrange vaccination for their children to ensure personal protection before the influenza season arrives. To prevent outbreaks of influenza and other respiratory infections in schools, children with fever and respiratory symptoms should refrain from going to school and seek medical advice.



[SED visits Islands District](#)

The Secretary for Education, Mr Kevin Yeung, today (November 20) visited Islands District to meet with members of the Islands District Council (IDC)

and see some of the social services provided in Tung Chung.

Accompanied by the District Officer (Islands), Mr Anthony Li, Mr Yeung first visited the IDC to exchange views with its chairman, Mr Chow Yuk-tong, and other members on education and other district issues.

Then he called at the Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui Tung Chung Integrated Services in Fu Tung Estate, Tung Chung. Established in 1997, the centre aims to serve children, young people, families, elderly people and new immigrants with services including guidance, healthcare, rehabilitation, training, employment and counselling.

In addition to touring the centre's facilities and learning more about its services, Mr Yeung also took the opportunity to chat with its clients, including students and parents of students with special educational needs (SEN), about their studies and service requirements.

Mr Yeung said, "The Government attaches great importance to the whole-person development of students. The Chief Executive has proposed in her 2018 Policy Address to provide a new recurrent Life-wide Learning Grant with an annual provision of \$900 million, starting from the 2019/20 school year. The Grant will support public sector schools and schools under the Direct Subsidy Scheme to take forward, on the present foundation, life-wide learning with enhanced efforts through organising more out-of-classroom experiential learning activities.

"For example, activities like field studies and workplace experience can enable students to learn in real-life contexts and broaden their horizons. Community service can also help develop students' care for others and empathy. We trust that the enlivened and enriched learning experiences will not only enhance students' interest in learning, but also help them develop positive values and attitudes."

The Government will enhance its efforts to provide support for students with SEN. Starting from the 2019/20 school year, an additional funding of \$800 million per year will be offered to schools so that they can acquire more resources and teaching staff, as well as professionals like educational psychologists and speech therapists, who will provide more comprehensive support services for students with SEN.

Mr Yeung expressed the hope that with the concerted efforts of the Government, schools and social welfare organisations to improve their services, children and young people with different talents will be better supported to grow healthily, unleash their potential and contribute to the community.

Two recycling sites in Yuen Long convicted for illegal storage of hazardous electronic waste (with photos)

Two recycling sites in Yuen Long, operated by Shengji Industrial Trading Limited and Dragon_I Recycling Trading Company respectively, illegally stored hazardous electronic waste (e-waste). The responsible person and owner of the companies were convicted and fined a total of \$20,500 at Fanling Magistrates' Courts today (November 20) for contravening the Waste Disposal Ordinance (WDO) and the Waste Disposal (Chemical Waste) (General) Regulation.

A spokesman for the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) said that operations were conducted by EPD staff in March and April to step up enforcement actions to combat irregularities at open space recycling sites in the vicinity of Shek Wu Wai in Yuen Long. The officers successfully raided the recycling sites operated by Shengji Industrial Trading Limited and Dragon_I Recycling Trading Company respectively at the above location and found that the sites illegally stored waste printed circuit boards (PCBs) and waste LCD monitors, which are classified as chemical waste. Some waste PCBs and LCDs were stored in the open space or chaotically placed in plastic or paper boxes without lids. A total of about 50 bags of PCBs weighing about 18 tonnes and more than 800 waste LCDs monitors were found during the two operations, with a total export market value of \$2 million. Upon evidence gathering, the EPD initiated prosecutions against the recycling sites' responsible person and owner in accordance with the Waste Disposal (Chemical Waste) (General) Regulation.

The spokesman stressed that dismantled PCBs, LCD monitors and cathode ray tubes are hazardous e-waste, containing heavy metals and other toxic substances. They are classified as chemical waste. Chemical waste is hazardous by nature and, if not properly controlled, will pollute the environment and pose a risk to the health of relevant trade practitioners and the general public. The EPD will continue to combat the illegal collection, storage, handling and import activities of hazardous e-waste. Anyone who violates the above laws shall be liable to a maximum fine of \$200,000 and six months' imprisonment for the first conviction. For subsequent offences, offenders are liable to a maximum fine of \$500,000 and two years' imprisonment.

For more information about the control of chemical waste, please visit the EPD's website: www.epd.gov.hk/epd/english/environmentinhk/waste/guide_ref/guide_cwc.html.



[Grants approved for earthquake and tsunami victims in Indonesia](#)

The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region has accepted the advice of the Disaster Relief Fund Advisory Committee and approved from the Disaster Relief Fund two grants totalling \$8.8 million to two agencies for providing relief to earthquake and tsunami victims in Indonesia.

Announcing the grants today (November 20), a spokesman for the Government said that the two grants, one of \$5.8 million to World Vision Hong Kong and one of \$3 million to Save the Children Hong Kong, will be used to provide food, household and hygiene items as well as education kits, to benefit around 62 700 earthquake and tsunami victims in Central Sulawesi Province, Indonesia. As the targeted localities of the two relief agencies are different, there will be no overlapping of resources. The Committee hopes the grants will facilitate the provision of timely relief to the victims and help them restore their normal living.

"To ensure that the money is used for the designated purposes, the relief agencies will be asked to submit evaluation reports and audited accounts on the use of the grants after the relief projects have been completed," the spokesman said.