

Update on number of dengue fever cases

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health today (August 31) reported the latest number of cases of dengue fever (DF), and again urged the public to maintain strict environmental hygiene, mosquito control and personal protective measures both locally and during travel.

From August 25 to 31 (as of noon), the CHP recorded one imported DF case. The patient had been to multiple countries (Maldives, Malaysia and Japan) during the incubation period.

As of noon today (August 31), 90 cases had been confirmed this year, 28 of which were local cases and 62 imported cases. The imported cases were mainly imported from Thailand (26), the Philippines (12) and Cambodia (seven).

DF remains endemic in some areas in Asia and beyond. In Guangdong, there were 121 cases recorded in the first seven months of this year. The latest figures for 2018 reveal that 50 079 cases have been recorded in Thailand, 1 846 in Singapore (since December 31, 2017) and 90 in Japan. In Taiwan, 55 local cases have been recorded to date in 2018. In the Americas, the latest figures indicate that 239 389 and 23 211 cases have been filed in Brazil and Mexico respectively in 2018.

The public should take heed of the following advice on mosquito control:

- Thoroughly check all gully traps, roof gutters, surface channels and drains to prevent blockage;
- Scrub and clean drains and surface channels with an alkaline detergent compound at least once a week to remove any deposited mosquito eggs;
- Properly dispose of refuse, such as soft drink cans, empty bottles and boxes, in covered litter containers;
- Completely change the water of flowers and plants at least once a week. The use of saucers should be avoided if possible;
- Level irregular ground surfaces before the rainy season;
- Avoid staying in shrubby areas; and
- Take personal protective measures such as wearing light-coloured long-sleeved clothes and trousers and apply insect repellent containing DEET to clothing or uncovered areas of the body when doing outdoor activities.

To reduce the risk of infections spread by mosquitoes, apart from [general measures](#), travellers returning from affected areas should apply insect repellent for 14 days (DF) or at least 21 days (Zika virus infection) upon arrival in Hong Kong. If feeling unwell, seek medical advice promptly and provide travel details to the doctor. DEET-containing insect repellents are effective and the public should take heed of the tips below:

- Read the label instructions carefully first;
- Apply right before entering an area with risk of mosquito bites;
- Apply on exposed skin and clothing;
- Use DEET of up to 30 per cent for pregnant women and up to 10 per cent for children*;
- Apply sunscreen first, then insect repellent; and
- Re-apply only when needed and follow the instructions.

* For children who travel to countries or areas where mosquito-borne diseases are endemic or epidemic and where exposure is likely, those aged 2 months or above can use DEET-containing insect repellents with a DEET concentration of up to 30 per cent.

The public may refer to the CHP's [tips for using insect repellents](#) for details.

SHA congratulates Hong Kong cycling athletes on winning two gold medals in Asian Games

The Secretary for Home Affairs, Mr Lau Kong-wah, today (August 31) extended his congratulations to Hong Kong cycling athletes Lee Wai-sze and the duo of Cheung King-lok and Leung Chun-wing on winning a gold medal in the Women's Sprint event and Men's Madison event of Track Cycling respectively in the 18th Asian Games, being held in Jakarta and Palembang in Indonesia.

Mr Lau said, "After defending her title in the Keirin event, Lee Wai-sze won a gold medal in the sprint event with her unstoppable determination and outstanding strength. Her excellent results have encouraged fellow Hong Kong athletes and we are proud of her achievements. Cheung King-lok and Leung Chun-wing have demonstrated excellent team spirit and adopted the right strategy to win a gold medal over strong fellow Asian contestants. They deserve our congratulations."

The Hong Kong team has so far won 37 medals, namely six gold medals, 14 silver medals and 17 bronze medals, at this Asian Games. The list of other medals won from August 29 to today is as follows:

Today

Silver medal

Cycling (Track): Women's Madison
Pang Yao and Yang Qianyu

August 30

Silver medal

Cycling (Track): Men's Omnium
Leung Chun-wing

August 29

Bronze medal

Table Tennis: Mixed Doubles
Lee Ho-ching and Ho Kwan-kit

Meetings of Legislative Council Committees

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

No open or closed meetings of the Legislative Council (LegCo) Committees will be held in the LegCo Complex during the week from September 3 to 7.

International Reserves and Foreign Currency Liquidity

The following is issued on behalf of the Hong Kong Monetary Authority:

The Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA) released today (August 31) the analytical data on the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region's foreign currency reserves and foreign currency liquidity as at the end of July 2018 (Annex). These data are published monthly in the Template on International Reserves and Foreign Currency Liquidity in accordance with the International Monetary Fund's Special Data Dissemination Standard.

At present, four press releases relating to the Exchange Fund's data are issued by the HKMA each month. Three of these releases are issued to disseminate monetary data in accordance with the International Monetary Fund's Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS). The fourth press release, on the Exchange Fund's Abridged Balance Sheet and Currency Board Account, is made in accordance with the HKMA's policy of maintaining a high level of transparency. For the month of August 2018, the scheduled dates for issuing the press releases are as follows:

August 7 (Issued)	SDDS International Reserves (Hong Kong's Latest Foreign Currency Reserve Assets Figures)
August 14 (Issued)	SDDS Analytical Accounts of the Central Bank (Analytical Accounts of the Exchange Fund)
August 31	SDDS Template on International Reserves and Foreign Currency Liquidity
August 31	Exchange Fund Abridged Balance Sheet and Currency Board Account

Residential Mortgage Survey Results for July 2018

The following is issued on behalf of the Hong Kong Monetary Authority:

The Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA) announced the results of the residential mortgage survey for July 2018.

The number of mortgage applications in July decreased month-on-month by 2.5% to 14 217.

Mortgage loans approved in July increased by 9% compared with June to HK\$44.3 billion. Among these, mortgage loans financing primary market transactions increased by 41.8% to HK\$8 billion and those financing secondary market transactions decreased by 1.1% to HK\$23.8 billion. Mortgage loans for refinancing increased by 14.6% to HK\$12.5 billion.

Mortgage loans drawn down during July decreased by 10.6% compared with June to HK\$30.1 billion.

The ratio of new mortgage loans priced with reference to HIBOR increased

from 89.7% in June to 94.5% in July. The ratio of new mortgage loans priced at fixed rates decreased from 5.2% in June to 0.3% in July.

The outstanding value of mortgage loans increased month-on-month by 0.7% to HK\$1,266.9 billion at end-July.

The mortgage delinquency ratio remained unchanged at 0.02% and the rescheduled loan ratio remained unchanged at nearly 0%.