

# Health risk category for Air Quality Health Index may reach "Serious" level

The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) has recorded higher than normal pollution levels. At 4pm today (August 22), the Air Quality Health Index (AQHI) at some general stations reached 10, corresponding to the "Very High" health risk category.

There are sunny periods with relatively low visibility and light winds in Hong Kong today. Higher than normal levels of nitrogen dioxide and ozone have been recorded in the territory since this morning. Hong Kong is being affected by an air mass with higher background pollutant concentrations. In addition, the light wind hinders effective dispersion of air pollutants. The sunshine enhances photochemical smog activity and the formation of ozone and fine particulates, resulting in high pollution in the Pearl River Delta region. The high level of ozone has promoted the formation of nitrogen dioxide, particularly in parts of the urban areas and at the roadside. It is expected that the AQHI at some general and roadside air monitoring stations may reach the "Serious" level later today.

According to the Hong Kong Observatory, there will still be light winds in the following days. It is expected that pollution levels will remain higher than normal until the wind strengthens.

With a health risk category in the "Very High" range or above, children, the elderly and persons with existing heart or respiratory illnesses are advised to reduce physical exertion and outdoor activities to a minimum or avoid such activities. The general public are advised to reduce, or reduce to a minimum, outdoor physical exertion, and to reduce time staying outdoors, especially in areas with heavy traffic. As health effects of air pollutants may vary for individuals, persons who are in doubt or experience discomfort should seek advice from health-care professionals. The public may visit the Centre for Health Protection's website

([www.chp.gov.hk/en/content/9/460/3557.html](http://www.chp.gov.hk/en/content/9/460/3557.html)) for more information on health effects of air pollution and relevant health advice.

The Education Bureau (EDB) urges all schools to visit the EDB's website for appropriate measures to safeguard students' health and take note of changes in the index. The relevant hyperlink is as follows:

[www.edb.gov.hk/en/sch-admin/admin/about-activities/sch-activities-guidelines/index.html](http://www.edb.gov.hk/en/sch-admin/admin/about-activities/sch-activities-guidelines/index.html).

When the AQHI is at the "Very High" level, employers of outdoor workers performing heavy manual work are advised to assess the risk of outdoor work and take appropriate preventive measures to protect the health of their employees such as reducing outdoor physical exertion and the time of their stay outdoors, especially in areas with heavy traffic. At the "Serious" level, employers of all outdoor workers are advised to assess the risk of outdoor work and take appropriate preventive measures to protect the health

of their employees.

Members of the public can check the current AQHI readings at the EPD's website ([www.aqhi.gov.hk/en.html](http://www.aqhi.gov.hk/en.html)) or by calling the hotline 2827 8541.

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## **“Circus Funestus” to present apocalyptic love comedy involving a flea and an elephant (with photo)**

"Circus Funestus" by Sofie Krog Teater from Denmark will be performed in September as the first highlight of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department's "From Puppets to Humans" series.

The apocalyptic love comedy puppet show "Circus Funestus" follows the happenings at a circus after its microscopic hero, Mr Flea, declares his love for an adorable elephant. His declaration of love makes the evil villain, Mr Whip, mad with jealousy and he conspires with a bunch of evil props to take over the circus. What was once a circus show is now a power struggle between good and evil. Puppets, movies, music and transformative effects create a comical and magical universe for the audience. The programme premiered at the April Festival 2016 in Denmark and was taken on tour to Italy, France, Russia and Spain.

Founded in 2003, Denmark's Sofie Krog Teater produces filmic puppet theatre for teens and adults and is known for its unique comic productions with magical set designs. The theatre troupe made a breakthrough on the international front with the award-winning show "Diva". Then, in 2008, the theatre expanded by working in collaboration with David Faraco on new performances that were taken on tour at home and abroad.

The show (to be performed in English with Chinese and English surtitles) will be staged at 8pm on September 21 and 22 (Friday and Saturday) and at 3pm on September 22 and 23 (Saturday and Sunday) at the Studio Theatre of the Hong Kong Cultural Centre. Tickets priced at \$200 and \$260 are now available at URB TIX ([www.urbtix.hk](http://www.urbtix.hk)).

For telephone credit card bookings, please call 2111 5999. For programme enquiries and concessionary schemes, please call 2268 7323 or visit [www.lcsd.gov.hk/CE/CulturalService/Programme/en/multi\\_arts/programs\\_577.html](http://www.lcsd.gov.hk/CE/CulturalService/Programme/en/multi_arts/programs_577.html).



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## CSSA caseload for July 2018

The overall Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) caseload in July showed a drop of 497 cases, representing a decrease of 0.2 per cent compared with that of June, according to the latest CSSA caseload statistics released by the Social Welfare Department today (August 22).

The total CSSA caseload at the end of July stood at 230 665 (see attached table), with a total of 332 960 recipients.

Analysed by case nature, all categories of cases recorded a decrease. Low-earnings cases registered a month-to-month decrease of 1.2 per cent to 3 955 cases while unemployment cases showed a drop of 0.6 per cent to 12 475 cases.

Ill health cases fell by 0.4 per cent to 23 383 cases. Old age cases, single parent cases and permanent disability cases dropped by 0.2 per cent to 143 774 cases, 25 763 cases and 17 000 cases respectively.

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## Effective Exchange Rate Index

The effective exchange rate index for the Hong Kong dollar on Wednesday, August 22, 2018 is 104 (down 0.1 against yesterday's index).

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# Hong Kong Customs seizes suspected methamphetamine (with photo)

Hong Kong Customs yesterday (August 21) seized about 2 kilograms of suspected methamphetamine with an estimated market value of about \$1.1 million in Yuen Long.

During an anti-narcotics operation conducted in Yuen Long yesterday night, Customs officers intercepted a man and inspected an express parcel he was carrying. An industrial metal roller was found with suspected methamphetamine concealed inside. The 42-year-old man was then arrested.

Investigation is ongoing.

Under the Dangerous Drugs Ordinance, trafficking in a dangerous drug is a serious offence. The maximum penalty upon conviction is a fine of \$5 million and life imprisonment.

Members of the public may report any suspected drug trafficking activities to the Customs 24-hour hotline 2545 6182 or its dedicated crime-reporting email account ([crimereport@customs.gov.hk](mailto:crimereport@customs.gov.hk)).

