

Update on cluster of Respiratory Syncytial Virus cases in Castle Peak Hospital

The following is issued on behalf of the Hospital Authority:

Regarding an earlier announcement on a cluster of patients infected with Respiratory Syncytial Virus in a male ward for intellectual disability, the spokesperson for Castle Peak Hospital gave the following update today (June 26):

One more 28-year-old patient in the ward presented with respiratory symptoms. An appropriate viral test was arranged for the patient. The patient concerned is being treated under isolation with stable condition.

Admission to the ward has been suspended and restricted visiting has been imposed. Infection control measures have already been stepped up according to established guidelines. All other patients in the ward are under close surveillance.

The case has been reported to the Hospital Authority Head Office and the Centre for Health Protection for necessary follow-up.

EMEAP Central Banks announce launch of PAIF Securities Lending

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

The Executives' Meeting of East Asia-Pacific Central Banks (EMEAP) (note 1) announced the launch of securities lending in the Asian Bond Fund (ABF) (note 2) Pan-Asia Bond Index Fund (PAIF) (note 3) today (June 26). With effect from July 10, selected local currency-denominated bonds held within PAIF will be made available for lending in the regional securities lending markets.

The EMEAP has actively led the ABF Initiative to promote efficient financial intermediation in the region. The ABF has played a catalytic role in improving market infrastructure, accelerating tax and regulatory reform to facilitate cross-border investments, and raising investor awareness and interest in Asian bonds. Since the inception of ABF in 2003 (note 4), the size of Asian local currency-denominated bond markets has grown almost eight-

fold to exceed US\$10 trillion, providing more funding and investment instruments in local currencies.

The launch of PAIF Securities Lending represents another milestone in the ABF Initiative. The EMEAP believes that PAIF Securities Lending will improve the liquidity of local currency-denominated bonds in the secondary markets, consistent with the EMEAP's common goal to broaden and deepen bond markets in the region. The EMEAP also believes that PAIF Securities Lending will help to enhance the functioning of regional money markets.

The members of EMEAP continue to co-operate on various regional initiatives to develop the regional bond markets and will collaborate with the relevant authorities and market participants to ensure the success of PAIF Securities Lending in both improving the liquidity and enhancing the functioning of regional bond markets. The EMEAP remains committed and unified to lead the ABF Initiative.

For more details regarding PAIF Securities Lending, please refer to www.emeap.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/Appendix.pdf.

Note 1: The EMEAP is a group of the following eleven central banks and monetary authorities in the East Asia and Pacific region: Reserve Bank of Australia, People's Bank of China, Hong Kong Monetary Authority, Bank Indonesia, Bank of Japan, Bank of Korea, Bank Negara Malaysia, Reserve Bank of New Zealand, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, Monetary Authority of Singapore, and Bank of Thailand.

Note 2: The Asian Bond Fund (ABF) Initiative (emeap.org/index.php/about-emeap) comprises ABF1 and ABF2. ABF1 was closed in 2016 and reinvested to ABF2. ABF2, comprising the Pan-Asia Bond Index Fund (PAIF) and eight single-market funds, is managed by private-sector fund managers with the Bank for International Settlements as the administrator. It invests in local currency-denominated government and quasi-government bonds in EMEAP economies other than Australia, Japan and New Zealand.

Note 3: PAIF is a component of ABF that invests in local currency-denominated government and quasi-government bonds in EMEAP economies (excluding Australia, Japan and New Zealand). The fund is managed passively.

Note 4: The EMEAP set up the ABF in 2003 as part of central bank co-operation. As a background, development of bond markets in the region had gained momentum, drawing on the lessons from the Asian financial crisis in 1997.

Unlicensed food factory in Yuen Long raided (with photo)

The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) raided an unlicensed food factory at Shek Wu Wai, Yuen Long, early this morning (June 26).

During the operation, FEHD officers seized about 2 300 kilograms of pig skin intended for human consumption and some tools. A 26-year-old man was arrested and charged with operating an unlicensed food factory and failing to maintain cleanliness of food premises.

"The FEHD will continue to take stringent enforcement action against unlicensed food factory activities. Under the Food Business Regulation (Cap 132X), anyone operating an unlicensed food factory commits an offence and is liable to a maximum fine of \$50,000 and imprisonment for six months upon conviction," a spokesman for the FEHD said.

"Members of the public can report suspected unlicensed food factories by calling the FEHD hotline on 2868 0000."



CHP investigates case of Legionnaires' disease in elderly home

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health is today (June 26) investigating a case of Legionnaires' disease (LD), and stressed the importance of using and maintaining properly designed man-made water systems and that susceptible groups should strictly observe relevant precautions.

The male patient, aged 81 with underlying illness, who lives in a

residential care home for the elderly (RCHE) in Kowloon City District, has developed fever, cough with sputum, runny nose and shortness of breath since June 21 and was admitted to Kwong Wah Hospital for treatment the next day. The clinical diagnosis was pneumonia and he is in a stable condition.

The patient's urine sample tested positive for *Legionella pneumophila* serogroup 1 antigen upon laboratory testing.

Initial enquiries revealed that the patient had no travel history in the incubation period.

"Epidemiological investigations with the RCHE are ongoing to identify potential sources of infection, high-risk exposure and clusters, if any. Relevant water samples and environmental swabs have been collected from potential sources for testing," a spokesman for the CHP said.

Tracing of contacts including staff and residents in the RCHE where the patient stayed is ongoing and those identified will be put under medical surveillance. The CHP has provided health advice against LD to staff and residents, including those with weakened immunity who should use sterile or boiled water for drinking, tooth brushing and mouth rinsing.

Legionellae are found in various environmental settings and grow well in warm water (20 to 45 degrees Celsius). They can be found in aqueous environments such as water tanks, hot and cold water systems, cooling towers, whirlpools and spas, water fountains and home apparatus that support breathing. People may get infected when they breathe in contaminated droplets (aerosols) and mist generated by artificial water systems. They may also get the infection when handling garden soil, compost and potting mixes.

Persons with weakened immunity should strictly observe the health advice below:

- Use sterile or boiled water for drinking, tooth brushing and mouth rinsing;
- Avoid using humidifiers, or other mist- or aerosol-generating devices. A shower may also generate small aerosols; and
- If using humidifiers, or other mist- or aerosol-generating devices, fill the water tank with only sterile or cooled freshly boiled water, and not water directly from the tap. In addition, clean and maintain humidifiers/devices regularly according to manufacturers' instructions. Never leave stagnant water in a humidifier/device. Empty the water tank, wipe all surfaces dry, and change the water daily.

The public, including susceptible groups, should take heed of the general precautions against LD below:

- Observe personal hygiene;
- Do not smoke and avoid alcohol;
- Strainers in water taps and shower heads should be inspected, cleaned,

descaled and disinfected regularly or at a frequency recommended by the manufacturer;

- If a fresh water plumbing system is properly maintained, it is not necessary to install domestic water filters. Use of water filters is not encouraged as clogging occurs easily, which can promote growth of micro-organisms. In case water filters are used, the pore size should be 0.2 micrometres (µm) and the filter needs to be changed periodically according to the manufacturer's recommendations;
- Drain and clean water tanks of buildings at least quarterly;
- Drain or purge for at least one minute the infrequently used water outlets (e.g. water taps, shower heads and hot water outlets) and stagnant points of the pipework weekly or before use;
- Seek and follow medical advice regarding the use and maintenance of home respiratory devices and use only sterile (not distilled or tap) water to clean and fill the reservoir. Clean and maintain the device regularly according to manufacturer's instructions. After cleaning/disinfection, rinse the device with sterile water, cooled freshly boiled water or water filtered with 0.2-micrometre filters. Never leave stagnant water in the device. Empty the water tank, keep all surfaces dry, and change the water daily; and
- When handling garden soil, compost and potting mixes:
 1. Water gardens and compost gently using low pressure;
 2. Open composted potting mixes slowly and make sure the opening is directed away from the face;
 3. Wet the soil to reduce dust when potting plants; and
 4. Avoid working in poorly ventilated places such as enclosed greenhouses.

More information is available in the CHP's [LD](#) page, the [Code of Practice for Prevention of LD](#) and the [Housekeeping Guidelines for Cold and Hot Water Systems for Building Management](#) of the Prevention of LD Committee, and the CHP's [risk-based strategy](#) for prevention and control of LD.

Mobile Library 7 resumes service

The services provided by Mobile Library 7 have resumed after completion of urgent repairs to the mobile library van, a Leisure and Cultural Services Department spokesman announced today (June 26).

The service points of Mobile Library 7 are Fung Tak Estate and Chuk Yuen (South) Estate in Wong Tai Sin, Hoi Fu Court in Mong Kok West, Sceneway Garden in Lam Tin and Kai Yip Estate in Kowloon Bay.

For enquiries about Mobile Library 7 services, please call 2926 3056.