

## [Hong Kong Customs detects drug trafficking case involving “space oil drug” in town \(with photo\)](#)

Hong Kong Customs yesterday (March 31) in Tsing Yi seized 52 suspected "space oil drug" capsules, about 10 grams of suspected methamphetamine, two vape sticks, a batch of drug-inhaling apparatus and drug packaging paraphernalia with a total estimated market value of about \$24,000. Three men suspected to be connected with the case were arrested.

During an anti-narcotics operation conducted in Tsing Yi last night, Customs officers intercepted a 31-year-old man and found two suspected "space oil drug" capsules and one vape stick on him. He was then arrested. Customs officers later escorted the arrested man to a nearby public rental housing unit where he lived for a search, and further seized about 50 suspected "space oil drug" capsules, about 10g of suspected methamphetamine, one vape stick, a batch of drug-inhaling apparatus and drug packaging paraphernalia. Another two men aged 35 and 36 inside the unit were also arrested.

An investigation is ongoing.

Customs will continue to step up enforcement and stringently combat against trafficking of the "space oil drug". If public rental housing units are found to be involved in drug trafficking crimes, Customs will notify the Housing Department for follow-up action after the conclusion of court proceedings.

Under the Dangerous Drug 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 Customs' 24-hour report hotline 182 8080 or its dedicated crime reporting email account ([crimereport@customs.gov.hk](mailto:crimereport@customs.gov.hk)) or online form ([eform.cefs.gov.hk/form/ced002](http://eform.cefs.gov.hk/form/ced002)).



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## Cross-boundary passenger traffic estimation and arrangements for Ching Ming festive period (with photos)

The Immigration Department (ImmD) estimates that around 4.58 million passengers (including Hong Kong residents and visitors) will pass through Hong Kong's sea, land and air control points during the upcoming Ching Ming festive period (from April 3 to 6). The ImmD, in consultation with the Shenzhen General Station of Exit and Entry Frontier Inspection and other Mainland authorities, estimates that around 3.91 million passengers will pass through land boundary control points. The number of outbound and inbound passengers using land boundary control points will be relatively higher on April 4 (Friday) and April 6 (Sunday), with around 561 000 passengers and 608 000 passengers respectively.

The ImmD estimates that the passenger traffic at the Lo Wu Control Point, the Lok Ma Chau Spur Line Control Point and the Shenzhen Bay Control Point will be heavy, with a daily average forecast of about 231 000, 211 000 and 149 000 passengers respectively.

To cope with the anticipated heavy traffic during the festive period, the ImmD has minimised leave for frontline officers for flexible deployment and the operation of extra clearance counters and kiosks.

Furthermore, the ImmD, the Hong Kong Police Force, the Customs and Excise Department and the MTR Corporation Limited will set up a joint command centre at the Lo Wu Control Point to make necessary arrangements. The ImmD will also establish close communication with Mainland authorities, including the Shenzhen General Station of Exit and Entry Frontier Inspection. To ensure a smooth passenger traffic flow, passenger conditions will be closely monitored, and appropriate traffic diversion plans will be adopted when necessary.

To avoid congestion and longer-than-usual waiting times for immigration clearance, the ImmD advises all land boundary passengers to plan in advance, avoid making their journeys during busy periods and keep track of radio and TV broadcasts on traffic conditions at various control points. The busy times at boundary control points are available on the website of the ImmD at [www.immd.gov.hk](http://www.immd.gov.hk). Furthermore, passengers may also check the estimated waiting times at each land boundary control point at any time or place via the Immigration Mobile Application (ImmD Mobile App). They can then plan their trips effectively and save time queuing at control points. The ImmD Mobile App can be downloaded free of charge from the Apple App Store (supports iOS version 12.0 or above), Google Play (supports Android version 8.0 or above), Huawei AppGallery (supports Android version 8.0 or above) and the APK file

available on the ImmD website. Passengers can download the ImmD Mobile App by scanning the QR code (see Annex) or via the ImmD website, [www.immd.gov.hk](http://www.immd.gov.hk). In addition, information on public transport services to and from various control points is available on the Transport Department website at [www.td.gov.hk](http://www.td.gov.hk).

For travellers making journeys to the Mainland, the ImmD reminds them to carry their proof of identity and valid travel documents for crossing the boundary. Hong Kong residents should also check the validity of their Home Visit Permits. Non-permanent residents must carry their valid smart identity card as well as their Document of Identity for Visa Purposes or valid travel document.

Holders of the acknowledgement receipt issued due to the reported loss or replacement of their Hong Kong identity cards, or children under 11 years old who hold Hong Kong identity cards, should carry a valid travel document or Re-entry Permit.

About 700 e-Channels have been installed at various control points. To further enhance the clearance efficiency of control points and allow more Hong Kong residents to use the fast and convenient e-Channel service, starting from March 31, the ImmD has adjusted the applicable age for e-Channel service for holders of smart identity cards. Eligible Hong Kong permanent residents aged 7 to 10 years old, who are at least 1.1 metres tall and hold a smart identity card and a valid Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Passport, can use the e-Channels without prior enrolment for self-service immigration clearance via face recognition technology at all control points. Moreover, the Contactless e-Channel service is available at all control points now. All eligible Hong Kong residents, after enrolment, can generate an encrypted QR code through the Contactless e-Channel mobile application to enter the e-Channel and then verify their identity with the facial verification technology for automated immigration clearance.

In addition, all control points have introduced self-service departures for visitors to Hong Kong (Smart Departure), which provides greater travel convenience for visitors. The service employs facial recognition technology for identity verification, which allows eligible visitors holding electronic travel documents to perform self-service departure clearance through Smart Departure e-Channels without prior enrolment.

Hong Kong residents who require assistance while travelling outside Hong Kong may call the 24-hour hotline of the Assistance to Hong Kong Residents Unit of the ImmD at (852) 1868, call the 1868 hotline using network data or use the 1868 Chatbot via the ImmD Mobile App, send a message to 1868 WhatsApp assistance hotline or 1868 WeChat assistance hotline or submit the Online Assistance Request Form.



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## [Hong Kong Customs combats suspected illicit cigarette distribution activities in Sham Shui Po \(with photos\)](#)

Hong Kong Customs today (April 1) conducted an anti-illicit cigarette operation in Sham Shui Po to fight against criminals involved in illicit cigarette distribution in the district. About 13 000 suspected illicit cigarettes, with an estimated market value of about \$58,000 and a duty potential of about \$43,000, were seized.

Early this morning, while conducting an investigation at an illicit cigarettes black spot in Pei Ho Street, Sham Shui Po, Customs found a non-local man engaging in suspected illicit cigarettes distribution activities. Customs officers immediately arrested the 38-year-old man, who claimed to be unemployed, and seized the batch of suspected illicit cigarettes from two foam boxes and a nylon bag.

The arrested man was charged with "dealing with goods to which the Dutiable Commodities Ordinance applies" and will appear at the West Kowloon

Magistrates' Courts tomorrow (April 2).

Customs will continue its risk assessment and intelligence analysis for interception at source as well as through its multipronged enforcement strategy targeting storage, distribution and peddling to spare no effort in combating illicit cigarette activities.

Customs stresses that it is an offence to buy or sell illicit cigarettes. Under the Dutiable Commodities Ordinance, anyone involved in dealing with, possession of, selling or buying illicit cigarettes commits an offence. The maximum penalty upon conviction is a fine of \$1 million and imprisonment for two years.

Members of the public may report any suspected illicit cigarette activities to Customs' 24-hour hotline 182 8080 or its dedicated crime-reporting email account ([crimereport@customs.gov.hk](mailto:crimereport@customs.gov.hk)) or online form ([eform.cefs.gov.hk/form/ced002/](http://eform.cefs.gov.hk/form/ced002/)).



## [Import of poultry meat and products from areas in Germany and US suspended](#)

The Centre for Food Safety (CFS) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department announced today (April 1) that in view of notifications from the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) about outbreaks of highly pathogenic H5N1 avian influenza in the District of Wittenberg of the State of Sachsen-Anhalt in Germany and Mercer County and Hudson County of the State of New Jersey in the United States (US), the CFS has instructed the trade to suspend the import of poultry meat and products (including poultry eggs) from the above-mentioned areas, as well as from Bergen County of the State of New Jersey, New York County and Richmond County of the State of New York adjacent to Hudson County, with immediate effect to protect public health in Hong Kong.

A CFS spokesman said that according to the Census and Statistics Department, Hong Kong imported about 810 tonnes of frozen poultry meat from Germany; and about 79 630 tonnes of chilled and frozen poultry meat, and about 19.6 million poultry eggs from the US last year.

"The CFS has contacted the German and American authorities over the issues and will closely monitor information issued by the WOAHA and the relevant authorities on the avian influenza outbreaks. Appropriate action will be taken in response to the development of the situation," the spokesman said.

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## [DH offers free HPV vaccination to eligible female post-secondary students](#)

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health (DH) announced today (April 1) that the second phase of the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Vaccination Catch-up Programme has been launched. This Programme provides free HPV vaccination to female Hong Kong residents born between 2004 and 2008 who are currently studying at local post-secondary institutions (PSI) and are registered with eHealth.

"The CHP sent invitations to PSI in December last year to participate in the Programme. As of yesterday (March 31), all PSI have joined, and six of them have started activities in mid-March, which include offering vaccinations at campus health service or arranging outreach teams to administer the HPV vaccine to eligible female students on campus. The schedules for vaccination activities of each institution have been uploaded to the CHP's [website](#) (see Annex 1) for easy reference, and students can check with their student affairs office for details about the vaccination arrangements of their institutions," said the Controller of the CHP, Dr Edwin Tsui.

"In Hong Kong, cervical cancer was the ninth most common female cancer in 2022, with 522 new cases and 167 deaths. HPV vaccines are highly effective in preventing high-risk HPV types that are most frequently associated with cervical cancer. The DH learned that some students do not want to get vaccinated because they are worried about side effects or even misbelieve rumours that shock, early menstruation, increased sexual activity, etc, may occur after HPV vaccination, but these incorrect claims are completely unsubstantiated by scientific evidence," he added. To address unnecessary misunderstandings and concerns, the CHP hosted a webinar on March 19 with an enthusiastic response, which was attended by nearly 200 participants. Information of the webinar has been posted on the CHP's website. Furthermore,

the CHP has launched promotional videos on social media to enhance public understanding of the HPV vaccine and encourage eligible females to grasp the opportunity to receive the vaccine for optimal protection.

The CHP has included HPV vaccination in the Hong Kong Childhood Immunisation Programme since the 2019/20 school year for Primary Five and Six female students. So far, approximately 97 600 girls have completed two doses of the vaccine, accounting for about 90 per cent of eligible girls, far exceeding the interim target (70 per cent) outlined in the Hong Kong Cancer Strategy 2019.

In line with the latest World Health Organization recommendations, the DH launched the first phase of the HPV Vaccination Catch-up Programme in December last year. This phase provided free vaccines to female students studying at full-time secondary schools (including the secondary section of special schools) who were in Form Five or above and registered with eHealth. As of April 1, over 510 schools (approximately 98 per cent of eligible schools) have responded or indicated their participation. Among these, nearly 280 schools have already conducted vaccination activities, with over 14 000 doses administered. Counting doses administered under the Programme and self-arranged vaccinations, the first-dose HPV vaccine coverage rate is over 70 per cent.

"The CHP has asked secondary schools that do not arrange vaccination activities to inform parents. The list of these schools (see Annex 2) has also been uploaded to the CHP's [website](#), so that parents of students from these schools can arrange for their daughters to receive the vaccine at the DH's School Immunisation Team sub-offices or Student Health Service Centres," said Dr Tsui.

The third phase of the Programme will start in the first half of 2025. Targeted recipients are female Hong Kong residents born between 2004 and 2008 who have already completed their studies in Hong Kong. The third phase will also cover the remaining female Hong Kong residents born between 2004 and 2008 who have not yet completed their HPV vaccination. The CHP, together with the Primary Healthcare Commission, is finalising the arrangements for the third phase, with a preliminary plan to offer vaccinations at district Women Wellness Satellites and District Health Centres. Details will be announced in due course.

â€‹This HPV Vaccination Catch-up Programme is a one-off special arrangement that will last for about two years. Eligible female Hong Kong residents who do not participate in the Programme may receive the vaccine at their own expense in the future. For more information about the Programme, the public can visit the CHP's thematic [website](#).