

Latest quarantine and testing arrangements for foreign domestic helpers

The Government announced yesterday (January 27) that starting from February 5, the compulsory quarantine period for inbound travellers from overseas places will be adjusted to 14 days in designated quarantine hotels (DQHs)/designated quarantine facilities (DQFs), to be followed by a seven-day self-monitoring period. For persons who arrived at Hong Kong before February 5 and are required to undergo the 15th to 21st days of quarantine in DQHs/DQFs on or after February 5 as per the original quarantine orders (i.e. inbound travellers from overseas who arrive at Hong Kong between January 16 and February 4), the Department of Health will arrange for them to undergo relevant testing by batches in an orderly manner before the completion of quarantine. If they obtain a negative test result and have completed at least 14 days of quarantine, they will be arranged to leave the DQHs/DQFs in turn.

Reference can be made to the relevant press release on the above quarantine and testing details at this [link](#).

A Labour Department (LD) spokesman said, "In accordance with the above arrangement, foreign domestic helpers (FDHs), upon completion of the 14-day compulsory quarantine at DQHs/DQFs (see Note) should undergo self-monitoring at the employer's residence and be subject to compulsory testing. We understand that some employers may wish to arrange FDHs to complete self-monitoring at licensed hotels or guesthouses due to considerations of the family situation or household environment, etc. As such, for FDHs who have completed the 14-day compulsory quarantine, apart from moving to the employer's residence to undergo self-monitoring and compulsory testing, the Government will also allow FDHs to undergo self-monitoring at licensed hotels or guesthouses. However, these licensed hotels or guesthouses must not be serving DQHs/DQFs, so as to prevent cross-infection with people who are still undergoing the 14-day compulsory quarantine."

According to Clause 3 of the Standard Employment Contract (SEC), FDHs working in Hong Kong must work and reside in the employer's residence specified in the SEC during their employment period. In view of the above considerations, the Commissioner for Labour has, in accordance with Clause 15 of the SEC, given in-principle consent for FDHs who have completed a 14-day compulsory quarantine to stay at licensed hotels or guesthouses which are not DQHs/DQFs to complete the subsequent self-monitoring. It is not necessary to make an application to the LD. The relevant arrangement should be mutually agreed by the employer and the FDH. FDHs are not allowed to undergo self-monitoring at places which are not the employer's residence apart from licensed hotels or guesthouses. Lists of DQFs/DQHs can be found respectively at the LD's FDH Portal (www.fdh.labour.gov.hk) and the thematic website of the Government's DQH Scheme (www.coronavirus.gov.hk/eng/designated-hotel.html). The list of licensed hotels and guesthouses can be referred to

at this [link](#).

Upon departure from the DQHs/DQFs, FDHs should undergo compulsory testing on the 16th and 19th days of arrival at Hong Kong in accordance with the compulsory testing notice.

Should FDHs and their employers have any enquiries on employment matters, they may contact the LD through its 24-hour hotline at 2717 1771 (manned by 1823), by email to fdh-enquiry@labour.gov.hk or through the online form on the dedicated portal (www.fdh.labour.gov.hk).

Note: For FDHs who are arriving Hong Kong from Group A specified places and have been fully vaccinated in Hong Kong, the Mainland, Macao or places of stringent regulatory authorities designated by the World Health Organization, they may undergo compulsory quarantine at a general DQH. For the full list of applicable regions, please visit: www.coronavirus.gov.hk/pdf/places_of_issuance_recognised_vaccination_records.pdf.

Grading of beach water quality released

The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) today (January 28) released the latest grading of water quality for four gazetted beaches that are open all year round for swimming (see Note).

Four beaches were rated as Good (Grade 1).

Grade 1 beaches are:

Clear Water Bay Second Beach	Golden Beach
Deep Water Bay Beach	Silverstrand Beach

Under the present grading system, beaches are classified into four grades, namely Good (Grade 1), Fair (Grade 2), Poor (Grade 3) and Very Poor (Grade 4), according to the level of E. coli in the water. Grades are calculated on the basis of the geometric mean of the E. coli counts on the five most recent sampling occasions.

A summary of beach grades is published weekly before the weekend. The latest beach grades based on the most current data may be obtained from the EPD's website on Beach Water Quality (www.epd.gov.hk/epd/beach) or the beach hotline, 2511 6666.

Note: In view of the latest situation of COVID-19, the Leisure and Cultural Services Department has announced that lifeguard services at these beaches are temporarily suspended.

Approved Cheung Sha Wan Outline Zoning Plan amended

The Town Planning Board today (January 28) announced amendments to the approved Cheung Sha Wan Outline Zoning Plan (OZP).

The amendments mainly involve the (i) rezoning of the existing Wang Cheong Factory Estate in Cheung Sha Wan and the adjacent section of Tan Lai Street from "Open Space" to "Residential (Group A)11" ("R(A)11") for public housing development; (ii) incorporation of the areas covered by the approved Urban Renewal Authority (URA) Lai Chi Kok Road/Kweilin Street and Yee Kuk Street Development Scheme Plan (DSP) No. S/K5/URA1/2 and the approved URA Hai Tan Street/Kweilin Street and Pei Ho Street DSP No. S/K5/URA2/2 into the OZP and zoning the areas as "R(A)12" and "R(A)13" respectively to reflect the completed developments; (iii) rezoning of a site at Tai Po Road from "Comprehensive Development Area" and "Green Belt" to "Residential (Group C)7" to reflect the existing residential development; and (iv) other amendments to reflect the current uses and as-built conditions.

Opportunity is also taken to amend the Notes and Explanatory Statement of the OZP to reflect the above amendments and to update the general information of various land use zonings and the planning scheme area, where appropriate.

The draft URA Cheung Wah Street/Cheung Sha Wan Road DSP No. S/K5/URA3/1 has replaced the related area of the draft Cheung Sha Wan OZP No. S/K5/38 as delineated and described in the draft DSP starting from the date that the exhibition of the DSP is first notified in the Gazette on January 28.

The draft Cheung Sha Wan OZP No. S/K5/38, incorporating the amendments, is available for public inspection during office hours at (i) the Secretariat of the Town Planning Board, (ii) the Planning Enquiry Counters, (iii) the Tsuen Wan and West Kowloon District Planning Office and (iv) the Sham Shui Po District Office.

Any person may make written representations in respect of the amendments to the Secretary of the Board on or before March 28. Any person who intends to make a representation is advised to read the Town Planning Board Guidelines No. 29B on "Submission and Publication of Representations, Comments on Representations and Further Representations under the Town Planning Ordinance" (TPB PG-No. 29B).

Submission of a representation should comply with the requirements set out in TPB PG-No. 29B. In particular, the representer should take note of the following:

- * If the representer fails to provide his or her full name and the first four alphanumeric characters of his or her Hong Kong identity card or passport number as required under TPB PG-No. 29B, the representation submitted shall be treated as not having been made; and
- * The Secretariat of the Board reserves the right to require the representer to provide identity proof for verification.

The Guidelines and the submission form are available at the above locations (i) and (ii) and the Town Planning Board's website (www.info.gov.hk/tpb).

Copies of the draft Cheung Sha Wan OZP are available for sale at the Map Publications Centres in North Point and Yau Ma Tei. The electronic version of the OZP can be viewed at the Board's website (www.info.gov.hk/tpb).

Draft Urban Renewal Authority Cheung Wah Street/Cheung Sha Wan Road Development Scheme Plan published

The Town Planning Board today (January 28) announced the publication of the draft Urban Renewal Authority (URA) Cheung Wah Street/Cheung Sha Wan Road Development Scheme Plan (DSP) No. S/K5/URA3/1.

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The scheme area covers about 1.9 hectares and comprises two sites, namely Site A and Site B. Site A is designated as "Residential (Group A)" for high-density residential development with commercial and government, institution or community (GIC) facilities. Site B is designated as "Government, Institution or Community" and "Open Space" for GIC uses and public open space.

In accordance with section 25(9) of the URA Ordinance, the draft Cheung Wah Street/Cheung Sha Wan Road DSP No. S/K5/URA3/1 replaces the related area of the draft Cheung Sha Wan Outline Zoning Plan No. S/K5/38 as delineated and described in the draft DSP.

The draft DSP No. S/K5/URA3/1 is now available for public inspection during office hours at (i) the Secretariat of the Town Planning Board, (ii) the Planning Enquiry Counters, (iii) the Tsuen Wan and West Kowloon District Planning Office and (iv) the Sham Shui Po District Office.

Any person may make written representations in respect of the DSP to the Secretary of the Town Planning Board on or before March 28. Any person who intends to make a representation is advised to read the Town Planning Board Guidelines No. 29B on "Submission and Publication of Representations, Comments on Representations and Further Representations under the Town Planning Ordinance" (TPB PG-No. 29B).

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The Guidelines and the submission form are available at above locations (i) and (ii) and the Town Planning Board's website (www.info.gov.hk/tpb).

Copies of the draft URA Cheung Wah Street/Cheung Sha Wan Road DSP are available for sale at the Map Publications Centres in North Point and Yau Ma Tei. The electronic version of the plan can be viewed at the Town Planning Board's website (www.info.gov.hk/tpb).

Effective Exchange Rate Index

The effective exchange rate index for the Hong Kong dollar on Friday, January 28, 2022 is 95.5 (up 0.2 against yesterday's index).