

One man and one woman holding charged with manslaughter

Police today (November 30) laid a holding charge against a 57-year-old man and a 58-year-old woman jointly with one count of manslaughter.

The man and the woman were arrested on November 28 in suspected connection with a manslaughter case happened in Tuen Mun in which a 55-year-old man died.

The case will be mentioned at Tuen Mun Magistrates' Courts tomorrow (December 1) morning.

Immigration Department introduces Contactless e-Channel service for Hong Kong residents

â€‹The Immigration Department (ImmD) announced today (November 30) that contactless automated immigration clearance for Hong Kong residents (Contactless e-Channel service) will be launched tomorrow (December 1), which will be available to residents at Hong Kong International Airport, Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge and Shenzhen Bay control points. This initiative aims to provide faster, more convenient travel and a more hygienic immigration clearance service for residents.

Hong Kong residents aged 11 or above, who can use the e-Channel service, are eligible to enrol for the Contactless e-Channel service. Eligible Hong Kong residents aged 11 to 17 must enrol with the consent of their parent or legal guardian. Eligible Hong Kong residents can use a smartphone with biometric authentication to download the ImmD's Contactless e-Channel mobile application for enrolment. After successful enrolment with the mobile application, they can generate the encrypted QR code through the mobile application to enter the e-Channel, and then verify their identity with the facial verification technology for automated immigration clearance. Throughout the entire process, there will be no need for them to touch any shared equipment of the e-Channel.

In addition to the above enrolment means, eligible Hong Kong residents may also enrol directly at the Contactless e-Channel (only applicable to persons aged 18 or above) or in person at any of the e-Channel enrolment offices. Enrolled Hong Kong residents may also use their smart identity cards

to enter the e-Channel for automated immigration clearance using facial verification technology.

Moreover, residents can still continue to use fingerprint verification technology for automated immigration clearance or traditional counters for immigration clearance.

For details of the Contactless e-Channel service, please visit the ImmD's website at www.immd.gov.hk/cec. For enquiries, please call the enquiry hotline at 2824 6111, fax to 2877 7711 or send an email at enquiry@immd.gov.hk.

Cluster of Rhinovirus/Enterovirus cases in Caritas Medical Centre

The following is issued on behalf of the Hospital Authority:

The spokesperson for Caritas Medical Centre made the following announcement today (November 30):

Six male residents (aged 8 to 14) in a ward of Developmental Disabilities Unit, Paediatrics and Adolescent Medicine Department, have presented with fever or upper respiratory symptoms since November 25. Tests had been arranged for the six residents and their test results were positive for Rhinovirus/Enterovirus. They are now being treated under isolation and all are in stable condition.

Infection control measures have been stepped up according to the established guidelines, including:

1. Enhanced monitoring of clinical condition of all residents in the ward concerned;
2. Thorough cleaning and disinfection of the ward concerned;
3. Stringent droplet and contact precautions, and enhanced hand hygiene of staff and residents; and
4. New admissions to the ward concerned and special visiting have been temporarily suspended.

The hospital will continue to closely monitor the other residents in the ward. The cases have been reported to the Hospital Authority Head Office and the Centre for Health Protection for follow-up.

Registration for 2021 Legislative Council General Election – arrangement for electors to return from Mainland to Hong Kong to vote begins tomorrow

The 2021 Legislative Council General Election will be held on December 19. To enable eligible geographical constituency (GC) and functional constituency (FC) electors who are now in the Mainland to return to Hong Kong to vote on the polling day and be exempted from the quarantine requirements after fulfilling certain criteria, the Government yesterday (November 29) announced details of the arrangement (the Arrangement) for electors to return from the Mainland to Hong Kong to vote in the 2021 Legislative Council General Election (2021 LCGE). Polling stations will be set up on the Hong Kong side of Hong Kong/Shenzhen boundary control points (BCPs), namely Heung Yuen Wai, Lo Wu and Lok Ma Chau Spur Line control points. Eligible GC and FC electors who are in the Mainland and wish to cast their votes at one of the three BCP polling stations can register through the online registration system (www.reo-form.gov.hk/preregistration.htm) starting from 9am tomorrow (December 1) until 6pm on December 8. Late registrations will not be processed.

A spokesman for the Registration and Electoral Office (REO) said, "The Arrangement is only applicable to GC and FC electors and is not applicable to the electors of the Election Committee constituency (ECC). If an elector of the ECC is now in the Mainland, he/she should plan his/her trip to return to Hong Kong in advance or return to Hong Kong via the Return2hk Scheme with a view to casting his/her votes on the polling day."

In making an online registration, electors must choose the BCP polling station that they would like to vote, provide a Chinese/English name, Hong Kong identity card (HKID) number, email address, contact telephone number (including telephone number in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region or the Mainland which can receive SMS), Hong Kong and Macao Residents Entry and Exit Permit (Home Return Permit) number and the ordinarily residing area in the Mainland (province/municipality/autonomous region). If an elector does not have a Home Return Permit, he/she may provide the number of a foreign passport or travel document used to enter the Mainland (though the elector would need to ascertain the visa arrangement for re-entering the Mainland). Relevant information will be passed to the relevant departments in Hong Kong and the Mainland for the purposes of public health protection and immigration control.

After submitting the application for registration, electors will be assigned a reference number. The REO will issue a notification of registration result to the elector via SMS and/or email within three days to confirm whether they have successfully registered to vote at the specified

BCP polling station. An elector could only vote at the BCP polling station under the Arrangement if he/she has received a notification of registration confirming the successful registration. If electors arrive at any other non-chosen BCP polling stations, they will not be allowed to vote. When registering through the online registration system, electors will also need to choose to vote at a specified timeslot (each hour will be counted as one slot) on the polling day so as to facilitate the corresponding arrangement and crowd management by the relevant departments.

The spokesman said, "To ensure that the Arrangement is implemented in an orderly manner, a prior registration system would be adopted and a quota would also be imposed. The maximum registration quota for the three BCP polling stations would be 111 000 (the respective quota are: Heung Yuen Wai (Liantang): 33 000; Lo Wu (Luohu): 42 000; and Lok Ma Chau Spur Line (Futian): 36 000). The quota will be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis."

If a registrant would like to confirm his/her status as an elector, he/she may log in to the Online Voter Information Enquiry System (www.voterinfo.gov.hk) or call the election hotline (2891 1001) to ascertain whether he/she is a registered elector. For details of the Arrangement, please visit the dedicated website (www.elections.gov.hk). For enquiries, please email to reoengq@reo.gov.hk or call the election hotline (2891 1001). The hotline will operate from 8.45am to 8pm from Monday to Friday.

Conditional free COVID-19 testing service continues for targeted groups

The Food and Health Bureau (FHB) announced today (November 30) that the free COVID-19 testing service will continue to be provided for eligible persons of targeted groups at community testing centres (CTCs).

In view of the ongoing severe situation of COVID-19 infection around the world and the higher transmissibility of mutant strains which has a much faster rate of spread, the Government has been implementing the large-scale COVID-19 testing for groups of different risks, such that effective measures can be taken against the cases immediately to cut off transmission chains as quickly as possible. The testing of all targeted group persons (whether they have completed a vaccination course or not) must be done by using combined nasal and throat swabs collected by professionals, and the arrangement is applicable to all full-time and part-time staff of relevant industries.

To complement the dynamic "zero infection" strategy, the Government has taken a more stringent anti-epidemic measure since October and has fully implemented by phases the enhanced testing arrangement for high-risk and

high-exposure groups, who are now required to undergo more frequent regular virus testing, i.e. to get tested on a daily basis (those who have not yet completed a vaccination course) or every three days (those who have completed a vaccination course). The Government will also make arrangements soon for those in groups of very high exposure risks to undergo testing every two days. These targeted groups include airport staff of targeted groups, working staff of quarantine centres/hotels, designated quarantine hotels (DQHs)/facilities (DQFs) and relevant designated transport, designated staff of container terminals and shipping services, working staff of CTCs and mobile specimen collection stations, and designated cold store practitioners.

Relevant bureaux/departments are also following up on the testing arrangement of frontline staff working at land boundary control points. Details will be announced later. Furthermore, in accordance with the latest anti-epidemic measures announced by the Education Bureau, the testing requirement for school staff who have not yet taken the first dose of vaccine has been tightened since November 25. Eligible school staff can undergo free testing every seven days at CTCs.

Persons of targeted groups eligible for receiving free COVID-19 testing at the CTCs are mainly those who are vaccinated or those who are unfit for vaccination because of health reasons. They must present valid medical certificates/vaccination records/documents of identity proof (Note) for receiving free tests. This requirement is applicable to all targeted groups. In other words, persons of targeted groups will need to pay for the regular testing service if they do not fall under the category of being unfit for vaccination because of health reasons.

The specific requirements for eligible persons of various targeted groups (including testing frequency, specimen requirement, conditions for receiving free test) are set out in the Annex. They have to make bookings online (www.communitytest.gov.hk/en) for receiving the free testing service at the CTCs. Those who have no appointment or do not meet the eligibility/conditions will need to pay for the testing service at \$240. The free testing arrangement will be available until the end of December.

Persons eligible for booking a free test every day (For fully vaccinated persons: every three days)

- Working staff of quarantine centres/hotels, DQHs/DQFs and relevant designated transport
- Designated staff of container terminals and shipping services
- Designated cold store practitioners
- Working staff of CTCs and mobile specimen collection stations

Persons eligible for booking a free test every three days

- Airport staff of targeted groups
- Airport staff not under targeted groups (For fully vaccinated persons: every 14 days)

Persons eligible for booking a free test every seven days

- Staff of catering businesses and bars/pubs
- Staff of re-opened scheduled premises
- Practitioners working at Sheung Shui Slaughterhouse (SSSH)
- School staff

Persons eligible for booking a free test every 14 days

- Staff of designated scheduled premises and public and private swimming pools/beaches, and performers not wearing a mask in places of public entertainment and event premises (For staff of individual premises operating under certain modes or capacities: every seven days)
- Construction site personnel

Other persons eligible for booking a free test

- Working staff accompanying and receiving local group tours (To undergo one test within seven days before the tour, and no more than one free test every seven days)
- Staff members of residential care homes for the elderly, residential care homes for persons with disabilities and nursing homes who are fully vaccinated can continue to receive a free test every seven days on a voluntary basis to safeguard their health and that of their families and co-workers
- Personnel working in markets, licensed hawkers and fully vaccinated practitioners working at SSSH can continue to receive a free test every 28 days on a voluntary basis to safeguard their health and that of their families and co-workers

The Government regularly reviews the coverage and frequency of targeted group testing and if such testing should be publicly funded based on the latest epidemic risk assessment. A spokesman for the FHB said that the provision of free tests for targeted groups involves the use of public resources. Given that the Government must uphold the principle of effective use of resources, public money should only be used to subsidise individual eligible persons for taking nucleic acid tests in very exceptional situations.

The spokesman reiterated that the two vaccines currently recognised in Hong Kong are safe and effective, giving protection to the vaccinated persons and those around them. The vaccines have been received by billions of people worldwide and getting vaccination is the best way to fight the virus. Except for those with contraindications, most people are fit for vaccination. Currently, all Hong Kong residents aged 12 or above are eligible for receiving free vaccination. The Government calls on the public to treasure the vaccine supply in Hong Kong and get vaccinated as soon as possible.

Note:

- (i) Persons who are unfit to receive COVID-19 vaccination because of health reasons are required to present a relevant medical certificate;
- (ii) persons who are vaccinated (i.e. have received the first dose of COVID-19 vaccine, or received the second dose but not yet passed 14 days, or completed a vaccination course of two doses) should present a relevant

vaccination record (such as by downloading their electronic vaccination records or saving the printouts of their vaccination records to their mobile phones, or bringing along the printouts or copies of their vaccination records); and

(iii) certain groups should also present card/letter/document proof issued by relevant organisations for verification of identity.