

Special traffic arrangements for race meeting in Happy Valley

Special traffic arrangements will be implemented in Happy Valley today (March 12). The arrangements will last until the crowds have dispersed after the race meeting.

A. Traffic arrangements before the commencement of the first race

The following road closure and traffic diversions will be implemented from 50 minutes before the start of the first race for day racing, or from 6pm onwards for night racing:

1. Road closure

Southbound Wong Nai Chung Road between Queen's Road East and the up-ramp outside the Hong Kong Jockey Club (HKJC) will be closed, except for vehicles heading for Aberdeen Tunnel.

2. Traffic diversions

- Southbound Wong Nai Chung Road between Village Road and the up-ramp outside the HKJC will be re-routed one way northbound;
- Traffic along eastbound Queen's Road East heading for Wan Chai and Happy Valley will be diverted to turn left to Morrison Hill Road;
- Traffic along southbound Morrison Hill Road heading for Happy Valley will be diverted via Sports Road and Wong Nai Chung Road;
- Traffic along Queen's Road East cannot turn right to Wong Nai Chung Road, except for vehicles heading for Aberdeen Tunnel;
- Traffic from Cross Harbour Tunnel heading for Queen's Road East will be diverted via the down-ramp leading from southbound Canal Road flyover to Morrison Hill Road to turn right at the junction of Wong Nai Chung Road and Queen's Road East; and
- Traffic from Cross Harbour Tunnel heading for Happy Valley or Racecourse will be diverted via the down-ramp leading from southbound Canal Road flyover to Canal Road East, southbound Morrison Hill Road, Sports Road and Wong Nai Chung Road.

B. Traffic arrangements before the conclusion of race meeting

The following road closure and traffic diversions will be implemented from about 35 minutes before the start of the last race:

1. Road closure

- The up-ramp on Wong Nai Chung Road outside the HKJC leading to Aberdeen Tunnel;
- Southbound Wong Nai Chung Road between Queen's Road East and the up-ramp leading to Aberdeen Tunnel;
- Southbound Wong Nai Chung Road between Village Road and the Public Stands

of the HKJC;

- Westbound Leighton Road between Wong Nai Chung Road and Canal Road East;
- and
- Southbound Morrison Hill Road between Leighton Road and Queen's Road East.

In addition, southbound Wong Nai Chung Road between the up-ramp leading to Aberdeen Tunnel and the Public Stands of the HKJC will be closed from about 10 minutes before the start of the last race.

2. Traffic diversions

- Eastbound Queen's Road East at its junction with Morrison Hill Road will be reduced to one-lane traffic heading for northbound Canal Road flyover;
- Traffic from Cross Harbour Tunnel heading for Wan Chai will be diverted via the down-ramp leading from southbound Canal Road flyover to Canal Road East, U-turn slip road beneath Canal Road flyover, Canal Road West and Hennessy Road;
- Traffic from Cross Harbour Tunnel heading for Happy Valley will be diverted via the down-ramp leading from southbound Canal Road flyover to Canal Road East, eastbound Leighton Road and Wong Nai Chung Road;
- Traffic along southbound Morrison Hill Road will be diverted to turn left to eastbound Leighton Road;
- Traffic along southbound Morrison Hill Road heading for Happy Valley will be diverted via eastbound Leighton Road and Wong Nai Chung Road; and
- Traffic along westbound Leighton Road will be diverted to Wong Nai Chung Road.

C. Learner drivers prohibition

Learner drivers will be prohibited to turn left from Caroline Hill Road to Leighton Road between one and a half hours before the start of the first race and one hour after the last race. In addition, learner drivers will be prohibited from accessing the following roads within the above period of time:

- Shan Kwong Road between Yik Yam Street and Wong Nai Chung Road;
- Village Road between its upper and lower junctions with Shan Kwong Road;
- Percival Street between Hennessy Road and Leighton Road;
- Canal Road East; and
- The service road leading from Gloucester Road to Canal Road flyover.

D. Suspension of parking spaces

Parking spaces on southbound Wong Nai Chung Road between Sports Road and Blue Pool Road will be suspended from 11am to 7pm for day racing, and from 5pm to 11.59pm for night racing respectively.

All vehicles parked illegally during the implementation of the above special traffic arrangements will be towed away without prior warning, and may be subject to multiple ticketing.

Actual implementation of road closure and traffic diversion will be made by the Police at the time depending on traffic conditions in the areas.

Motorists should exercise tolerance and patience, and follow the instructions of Police on site.

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CHP updates on clusters of students participating in exchange tour who developed gastroenteritis symptoms

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health today (March 11) continued its investigations into the cluster of gastroenteritis symptoms among students who participated in an exchange tour to Shaoguan in Guangdong Province, and found that teachers and students from two other schools who participated in exchange tours to the same locations in Shaoguan in early March also developed gastroenteritis symptoms. The CHP has provided health advice to the affected schools on the transmission, prevention and infection control measures related to acute gastroenteritis (AGE).

During the investigation into the cluster [announced yesterday](#), the CHP found that teachers and students who participated in two other exchange tours to the same locations in Shaoguan on March 3 to 4 and March 6 to 7 also developed gastroenteritis symptoms. Including the cluster announced yesterday, a total of 52 teachers and students developed AGE symptoms from March 3 to 10. Sixteen of them sought medical attention and none required hospitalisation.

The CHP is investigating the source of this AGE outbreak from different perspectives. The CHP's epidemiological investigations revealed that the teachers and students of the three exchange tours had dined in the same restaurants. The CHP could not rule out the possibility that some of the cases were infected by consuming contaminated food and has notified the Guangdong authority of the relevant restaurants. Separately, a case vomited during the visit and more teachers and students subsequently fell ill after returning to Hong Kong. In this context, some of the cases may have been infected through person-to-person transmission or a contaminated environment.

The CHP will continue to follow up on the incidents and conduct epidemiological investigations, including collecting stool specimens from the cases for laboratory testing and advising the schools concerned on infection

control measures. The CHP has also alerted the Education Bureau to the situation.

Viral gastroenteritis is more commonly seen in cooler months and can be caused by a variety of viruses, most commonly norovirus and rotavirus. The main symptoms of viral gastroenteritis are diarrhoea and vomiting. Other symptoms include headache, fever, and abdominal cramps. In general, the symptoms begin one to two days following infection with a virus that causes gastroenteritis. Depending on the type of viruses causing the illness, however, the symptoms may last for one to 10 days.

Alcohol-based handrub should not substitute hand hygiene with liquid soap and water, as alcohol does not effectively kill some viruses frequently causing AGE, for example, norovirus. To prevent foodborne diseases, members of the public are advised to observe good personal, food and environmental hygiene. When eating out, the following points should be observed:

- Ensure proper personal hygiene;
- Wash hands thoroughly before handling food and eating, after using the toilet or after changing diapers;
- Wear gloves when disposing of vomitus or faecal matter, and wash hands afterwards;
- Clean and disinfect contaminated areas or items promptly and thoroughly with diluted household bleach (by adding one part of bleach containing 5.25 per cent sodium hypochlorite to 49 parts of water). Wash hands thoroughly afterwards;
- Maintain good indoor ventilation;
- Pay attention to food hygiene;
- Use separate utensils to handle raw and cooked food;
- Avoid food that is not thoroughly cooked;
- Drink boiled water; and
- Do not patronise unlicensed food premises or food stalls.

The public may visit the CHP's website for more information and preventive advice on [viral gastroenteritis](#).

Update on cluster of Candida auris cases in Tai Po Hospital

The following is issued on behalf of the Hospital Authority:

Regarding an earlier announcement on Candida auris carrier cases, the spokesperson for Tai Po Hospital gave the following update today (March 11):

Following a contact tracing investigation, one more patient, a 63-year-

old male in the medicine and geriatrics ward, was identified as a carrier of *Candida auris* while not having signs of infection. The patient was discharged earlier.

The hospital will continue the contact tracing investigation of close contacts of the patients in accordance with the prevailing guidelines. A series of enhanced infection control measures have already been adopted to prevent the spread of *Candida auris*:

1. Enhanced patient and environmental screening procedures;
2. Applied stringent contact precautions and enhanced hand hygiene for staff and patients; and
3. Thorough cleaning and disinfection of the ward concerned.

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

[DH welcomes WHO Regional Director for Western Pacific and showcases contributions of Hong Kong, China to global public health, Chinese Medicine development and tobacco control \(with photos\)](#)

The World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Director for the Western Pacific, Dr Saia Ma'u Piukala, visited the Department of Health (DH) today (March 11) to gain insights into its pioneering efforts in advancing global public health, prevention and control of infectious diseases, traditional Chinese Medicine development and effective implementation of tobacco control strategies.

This visit marks Dr Saia Ma'u Piukala's first trip to Hong Kong since his appointment by the WHO last year. During the meeting, the Director of Health, Dr Ronald Lam, gave an overview of the DH's extensive services, covering disease prevention and control, health regulation, health promotion, dental, rehabilitation and specialised health services. The Controller of Regulatory Affairs of the DH, Dr Amy Chiu, highlighted Hong Kong's commitment and proactive tobacco control strategies, especially the imposition of a ban

on alternative smoking products, which can effectively prevent their use in the territory. The Controller of the Centre for Health Protection of the DH, Dr Edwin Tsui, also outlined the response measures implemented during the COVID-19 pandemic and shared experiences on prevention and control as well as future plans. The DH also engaged in discussions with Dr Saia Ma'u Piukala to enhance collaborative efforts in the prevention and control of various infectious diseases, including influenza, AIDS, and viral hepatitis.

Dr Saia Ma'u Piukala applauded the measures and commended Hong Kong for the DH's active participation and contributions to the prevention and control of various diseases and global health governance.

"We are looking forward to stronger collaboration with the DH. Together, for the sake of the young generation and the world, we hold the power to make a difference," said Dr Saia Ma'u Piukala.

Dr Saia Ma'u Piukala was then accompanied by the Head of the Tobacco and Alcohol Control Office (TACO), Dr Fung Ying, to a statutory no smoking area in Admiralty to inspect the enforcement work of the staff of TACO of the DH. He was also briefed on the tobacco control policy and the way forward to control smoking in Hong Kong.

In the afternoon, Dr Saia Ma'u Piukala went to the Government Chinese Medicines Testing Institute (GCMTI) of the DH and was briefed by the Assistant Director (Chinese Medicine), Dr Edmund Fong, on the work of the GCMTI as well as the DH's efforts in promoting the development of the Chinese medicine locally and internationally, including the development of standards for Chinese herbal medicines, and new identification and testing skills and methods for Chinese medicines to add momentum to the modernisation and standardisation of Chinese medicine.

DH staff then accompanied Dr Saia Ma'u Piukala to visit the Harlech walking trail on the Peak to appreciate the wild medicinal plants there, including *pavettahongkongensis* bremek, *cibotiumbarometz* (L) J Sm, and *ficus hirta* vahl, which are recorded in a publication called "Hong Kong Characteristic Medicinal Plants" published by the DH.

"The DH is committed to advancing global health initiatives and overcoming public health challenges in collaboration with the WHO. Our designation as the WHO Collaborating Centre for Traditional Medicine and the WHO Collaborating Centre for Smoking Cessation and Treatment of Tobacco Dependence demonstrates our dedication to enhancing human health and well-being. Furthermore, the WHO has designated the Public Health Laboratory Services Branch of the Centre for Health Protection of the DH as reference laboratories for various communicable diseases, making significant contributions to fighting epidemics worldwide. We will continue to strengthen our work with the WHO and other WPRO member states, and embrace our role as a 'super-connector' bridging Mainland and global health partners," said Dr Lam.

Dr Saia Ma'u Piukala met with the Secretary for Health, Professor Lo Chung-mau, yesterday (March 10). During their stay in Hong Kong, the DH also

arranged for the WHO delegation to meet with other representatives of the public health sector.

