

# Hong Kong Customs seizes suspected ketamine (with photo)

Hong Kong Customs seized about 4.4 kilograms of suspected ketamine with an estimated market value of about \$2.5 million at Hong Kong International Airport on November 7.

Customs officers inspected an air parcel that had arrived in Hong Kong from France on that day and found respectively seven and six pieces of fibreboard at the inner layers of two storage boxes. The batch of suspected ketamine was found concealed inside the fibreboards.

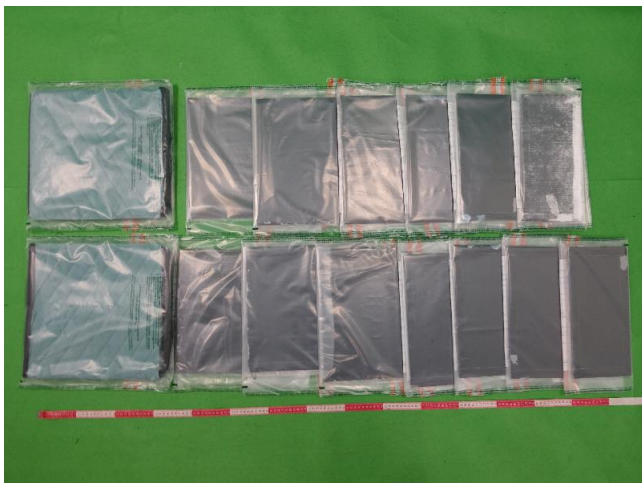
Upon follow-up investigation, Customs officers yesterday (November 14) arrested a 32-year-old man suspected to be in connection with the case in Ap Lei Chau.

He has been charged with one count of trafficking in a dangerous drug and will appear at Eastern Magistrates' Courts tomorrow (November 16).

Under the Dangerous Drugs Ordinance, trafficking in a dangerous drug is a serious offence. The maximum penalty upon conviction is a fine of \$5 million and life imprisonment.

Customs also reminds members of the public to stay alert and not to participate in drug trafficking activities for monetary returns. They must not accept hiring or delegation from another party to carry controlled items into and out of Hong Kong. They are also reminded not to carry unknown items for other people, nor to release their personal data or home address to others for receiving parcels or goods.

Members of the public may report any suspected drug trafficking activities to Customs' 24-hour hotline 2545 6182 or its dedicated crime-reporting email account ([crimereport@customs.gov.hk](mailto:crimereport@customs.gov.hk)).



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## CHP investigates 14 additional confirmed cases of COVID-19

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health has announced that as of 0.00am, November 15, the CHP was investigating 14 additional confirmed cases of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), taking the number of cases to 5 459 in Hong Kong so far (comprising 5 458 confirmed cases and one probable case).

Among the newly reported cases announced, nine had a travel history during the incubation period, one was local case with unknown sources while the other four were epidemiologically linked with a local case.

The case with unknown sources involves a 49-year-old man (case 5 446) who had developed fever on November 6. The patient consulted a private doctor on November 12 and submitted a deep throat saliva sample on the same day. He last went to work on November 9 at 25 Shan Kwong Road in Happy Valley.

The CHP's epidemiological investigations and relevant contact tracing on the confirmed cases are ongoing. For case details and contact tracing information, please see the Annex or the list of buildings with confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the past 14 days and the latest local situation of COVID-19 available on the website "COVID-19 Thematic Website" ([www.coronavirus.gov.hk](http://www.coronavirus.gov.hk)).

A spokesman for the CHP said, "During the CHP's epidemiological investigations and relevant contact tracing on the confirmed cases, we will compile and upload ([www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/building\\_list\\_eng.pdf](http://www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/building_list_eng.pdf)) a list of buildings that confirmed patients had visited from two days before the onset of symptoms. Given that cases of local infection continue to occur from time to time, members of the public are urged to seek medical attention immediately if they believe that they had visited the same place at an identical time with a confirmed patient and feel unwell subsequently. If they remain asymptomatic but are concerned that they have been infected, they can also visit the Hospital Authority's designated general out-patient clinics ([www.ha.org.hk/haho/ho/covid-19/GOPC\\_extend\\_EN.pdf](http://www.ha.org.hk/haho/ho/covid-19/GOPC_extend_EN.pdf)) to obtain specimen collection packs and collect deep throat saliva specimens for free COVID-19 testing."

In view of the severe epidemic situation, the CHP called on members of the public to avoid going out, having social contact and dining out. They should put on a surgical mask and maintain stringent hand hygiene when they need to go out. The CHP strongly urged the elderly to stay home as far as possible and avoid going out. They should consider asking their family and friends to help with everyday tasks such as shopping for basic necessities.

The spokesman said, "Given that the situation of COVID-19 infection remains severe and that there is a continuous increase in the number of cases reported around the world, members of the public are strongly urged to avoid all non-essential travel outside Hong Kong.

"The CHP also strongly urges the public to maintain at all times strict personal and environmental hygiene, which is key to personal protection against infection and prevention of the spread of the disease in the community. On a personal level, members of the public should wear a surgical mask when having respiratory symptoms, taking public transport or staying in crowded places. They should also perform hand hygiene frequently, especially before touching the mouth, nose or eyes.

"As for household environmental hygiene, members of the public are advised to maintain drainage pipes properly, regularly pour water into drain outlets (U-traps) and cover all floor drain outlets when they are not in use. After using the toilet, they should put the toilet lid down before flushing to avoid spreading germs."

Moreover, the Government has launched the website "COVID-19 Thematic Website" ([www.coronavirus.gov.hk](http://www.coronavirus.gov.hk)) for announcing the latest updates on various news on COVID-19 infection and health advice to help the public understand the latest updates. Members of the public may also gain access to information via the COVID-19 WhatsApp Helpline launched by the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer. Simply by saving 9617 1823 in their phone contacts or clicking the link [wa.me/85296171823?text=hi](https://wa.me/85296171823?text=hi), they will be able to obtain information on COVID-19 as well as the "StayHomeSafe" mobile app and wristband via WhatsApp.

To prevent pneumonia and respiratory tract infections, members of the public should always maintain good personal and environmental hygiene. They are advised to:

- Wear a surgical mask when taking public transport or staying in crowded places. It is important to wear a mask properly, including performing hand hygiene before wearing and after removing a mask;
- Perform hand hygiene frequently, especially before touching the mouth, nose or eyes, after touching public installations such as handrails or doorknobs, or when hands are contaminated by respiratory secretions after coughing or sneezing;
- Maintain drainage pipes properly and regularly (about once a week) pour about half a litre of water into each drain outlet (U-trap) to ensure environmental hygiene;
- Cover all floor drain outlets when they are not in use;
- After using the toilet, put the toilet lid down before flushing to avoid spreading germs;
- Wash hands with liquid soap and water, and rub for at least 20 seconds. Then rinse with water and dry with a disposable paper towel. If hand washing facilities are not available, or when hands are not visibly soiled, performing hand hygiene with 70 to 80 per cent alcohol-based handrub is an effective alternative;

- Cover your mouth and nose with tissue paper when sneezing or coughing. Dispose of soiled tissues into a lidded rubbish bin, then wash hands thoroughly; and
  - When having respiratory symptoms, wear a surgical mask, refrain from work or attending class at school, avoid going to crowded places and seek medical advice promptly.
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## **FEHD steps up inspections and reminds catering business operators and public to continue complying with anti-epidemic regulations**

The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) stepped up inspections at catering premises (including eateries and cooked food centres) in Tai Po District, Mong Kok District and Wong Tai Sin District and reminded the catering business operators to strictly comply with the requirements under the Prevention and Control of Disease (Requirements and Directions) (Business and Premises) Regulation (Cap. 599F) (the Regulation), and the public to comply with the various restrictions in relation to group gatherings and mask-wearing under the anti-epidemic regulations and directions when patronising catering premises.

FEHD officers yesterday (November 14) conducted inspections in Tai Po District and Mong Kok District, and conducted joint operations with the Police in Tsz Wan Shan. During the operations, a total of 102 catering premises (including 50 eateries and 52 cooked food stalls) were inspected. Twenty-five verbal warnings were given. Procedures on prosecution were initiated against four catering business operators for breaching the Regulation, mainly violating the requirements on the distance between tables or partition serving as effective buffer and the requirement on mask-wearing; and also against two catering business operators for breaching the Food Business Regulation (Cap. 132X) in terms of illegal extension of the business areas of their catering premises. In addition, fixed penalty notices were issued against two persons for breaching the regulation on mask-wearing.

A spokesman for the FEHD said, "According to the prevailing directions issued by the Secretary for Food and Health in relation to catering business under the Regulation, catering business operators have to strictly comply with a series of requirements and restrictions, including, no more than six persons may be at one table in catering premises; the total number of customers allowed in catering premises must not exceed 75 per cent of the normal seating capacity; a mask must be worn within the premises except when the person is consuming food or drink; tables must be arranged in a way to

ensure there is a distance of at least 1.5m or some form of partition which could serve as effective buffer between one table and another table; body temperature screening must be conducted before the person is allowed to enter the catering premises; and hand sanitisers must be provided, etc."

The spokesman supplemented, "According to the latest directions issued by the Secretary for Food and Health in relation to catering business under the Regulation that apply to the period from November 16 to 26 (see Gazette Notice published on November 14), the updated requirements and restrictions include: no more than two persons may be at one table for a bar/pub or night establishment/nightclub while no more than four persons may be at one table for other catering premises; the total number of customers allowed in catering premises must not exceed 50 per cent of the normal seating capacity; a mask must be worn within the premises except when the person is consuming food or drink at a table therein."

As a warm reminder, the spokesman said, "Communal seating areas adjoining cooked food stalls in a public market are public places. The public must comply with the Prevention and Control of Disease (Prohibition in Group Gathering) Regulation (Cap. 599G) that prohibits group gatherings of more than four persons in public places."

The spokesman stressed that for catering premises across the territory (including eateries and cooked food centres), the FEHD will continue to step up inspections and, as needed, conduct joint operations with the Police, to ensure that catering business operators and the public strictly comply with relevant regulations. Enforcement actions will be taken against offenders so as to minimise the risk of transmission of COVID-19 in food premises. If catering business operators contravene the Regulation, they are liable to a maximum fine of \$50,000 and imprisonment for six months. Persons who violate the group gathering restriction of the Prevention and Control of Disease (Prohibition in Group Gathering) Regulation (Cap. 599G) are subject to a fixed penalty of \$2,000.

The spokesman appealed to catering business operators to comply with relevant regulations on prevention and control of disease in a concerted and persistent manner, with a view to keeping their staff, customers and the public safe. Members of the public also have to comply with the related regulations and directions on group gatherings at catering premises.

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**[Applications for CCF's living subsidy for non-public housing and non-CSSA](#)**

# households to close at end of November

The following is issued on behalf of the Community Care Fund Secretariat:

Applications for the Community Care Fund (CCF)'s "One-off Living Subsidy for Low-income Households Not Living in Public Housing and Not Receiving Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA)" Programme (2020) will close on November 30 (Monday). Eligible households must submit their applications for the subsidy on or before the deadline.

The Programme was launched on July 2 to relieve the financial pressure on low-income households. The amount of subsidy for one-person households, two-person households, three-person households, four-person households and five-or-more-person households are \$4,500, \$9,000, \$12,500, \$14,500 and \$15,500 respectively.

Beneficiaries should currently be renting accommodation on a monthly basis (or for longer tenures) in private housing, industrial buildings, commercial buildings or social housing operated by non-governmental organisations (NGOs); renting bedspaces offered under the Home Affairs Department's Singleton Hostel Programme or bedspaces in hostels operated by NGOs for rehabilitated offenders; residing in temporary housing; living on board vessels, or being homeless. Their monthly income must not exceed the specified limits. They should not be receiving CSSA or own any property in Hong Kong. For persons renting accommodation in private housing, industrial buildings, commercial buildings or social housing, their monthly rent should not exceed the specified rent limits. The specified income and rent limits are as follows:

Household size (persons)	Household income limit (\$)	Household rent limit (\$) (if applicable)
1	15,100	7,550
2	22,000	11,000
3	26,800	13,400
4	33,500	16,750
5	36,900	18,450
6 or above	40,800	20,400

Eligible households should submit applications to the service units assisting in the implementation of the programme near their residence by post or in person. A drop-box arrangement is provided in some service units. Households comprising solely elderly persons aged 60 or above, households comprising solely young persons aged 24 or below or the homeless

can submit applications to elderly service units, youth service units or service units accepting applications from the homeless respectively by the deadline of November 30. Application forms and the programme brief can be downloaded at the CCF website ([www.communitycarefund.hk](http://www.communitycarefund.hk)). Applicants are advised to submit applications by post. Applicants who wish to submit applications to the service units in person are suggested to call the service units for the operating hours. Service units may require applicants to make bookings in advance.

The Secretariat and service units will vet each application, including verifying the eligibility, checking the supporting documents submitted, and conducting home visits/income tests on selected applications. The Secretariat will issue notifications of results to applicants after vetting applications, and disburse the subsidy to eligible households through bank transfer or in the form of order cheques.

As at November 13, the Secretariat has received more than 90 000 applications, and the Secretariat is handling such applications.

For details of the programme, please visit the CCF website ([www.communitycarefund.hk](http://www.communitycarefund.hk)) or call the programme hotline on 2180 6666.

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## [Yellow fire danger warning](#)

Attention duty announcers, radio and TV stations:

Yellow fire danger warning

The fire danger situation today (November 15) is yellow and the risk of fire is high. People are urged to prevent fires breaking out and hikers should also be vigilant.