

New names for tropical cyclones in 2020

Two new names, Pulasan and Krathon, have been introduced to the list of tropical cyclone names in the western North Pacific and the South China Sea in 2020 to replace the old names of Rumbia and Mangkhut respectively.

The new names were endorsed by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific/World Meteorological Organization Typhoon Committee at its 52nd session. The meanings of these two new names and the contributing countries are as follows:

Name	Meaning	Contributing country
Pulasan	A popular fruit in Southeast Asia known for its juicy and sweet taste	Malaysia
Krathon	A kind of fruit; also known as santol	Thailand

According to convention, the Typhoon Committee will consider retiring the name of a tropical cyclone which has caused serious casualties and economic losses. In August 2018, tropical storm Rumbia brought torrential rain to eastern China and central China. Fifty-two people were killed and one went missing. More than 10 million people were affected. In September 2018, super typhoon Mangkhut brought heavy downpours and squalls to Luzon during its passage, resulting in at least 82 deaths, 138 injuries and two missing with the collapse of around 15 000 houses. Mangkhut also brought damaging winds and a severe storm surge to the coast of the Pearl River Estuary, leading to damages of many buildings and coastal structures as well as serious inundation in low-lying areas. Four hundred and fifty-eight people and 40 people were injured in Hong Kong and Macao respectively. At least six people were killed and around 3.3 million were affected in Guangdong, Guangxi, Hainan, Guizhou and Yunnan.

The updated list of tropical cyclone names and their corresponding meanings is available at the Hong Kong Observatory website: www.hko.gov.hk/en/informtc/sound/tcname2020e.html.

Closure of Probate Registry

The following is issued on behalf of the Judiciary:

The Judiciary has been notified by the Centre for Health Protection that a court user who tested positive for COVID-19 had visited the Probate Registry on July 30. The registry will be closed for cleaning and disinfection today (August 17) and will reopen tomorrow (August 18).

Court users who have taken tickets for relevant services can return to the Probate Registry on LG3/F of the High Court Building (HCB) tomorrow, according to the "Real-time queue status for the High Court Registries" on the Judiciary website, without queuing for tickets again.

Services of other registries inside the HCB are not affected.

For enquiries, please call the following hotline from Monday to Friday 8.45am to 12.30pm and from 2pm to 5pm (except public holidays):

Probate: 2840 1683

Flag-raising ceremony cancelled

Owing to the thunderstorm warning, the flag-raising ceremony to be conducted at Golden Bauhinia Square, Wan Chai at 8am today (Aug 17) will be cancelled.

CHP investigates 74 additional confirmed cases of COVID-19

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health (DH) has announced that as of 0.00am, August 16, the CHP was investigating 74 additional confirmed cases of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), taking the number of cases to 4 481 in Hong Kong so far (comprising 4 480 confirmed cases and one probable case).

Among the newly reported cases announced, four had a travel history during the incubation period.

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).

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. As a number of recent cases involve elderly people, 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.

A spokesman for the CHP 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) for announcing the latest updates on various news on COVID-19 infections 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, 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.

Public hospitals daily update on COVID-19 cases

The following is issued on behalf of the Hospital Authority:

As at 9am today (August 16), 61 COVID-19 confirmed patients were discharged from hospital in the last 24 hours. So far, a total of 3 549 patients with confirmed or probable infection have been discharged.

At present, there are 685 negative pressure rooms in public hospitals with 1 247 negative pressure beds activated. A total of 761 confirmed patients are currently hospitalised in 20 public hospitals, a community isolation facility and a community treatment facility, among which 27 patients are in critical condition, 42 are in serious condition and the remaining 692 patients are in stable condition.

The Hospital Authority will maintain close contact with the Centre for Health Protection to monitor the latest developments and to inform the public and healthcare workers on the latest information in a timely manner.

Details of the above-mentioned patients are as follows:

Patient condition	Case numbers
Discharged	2208, 2500, 2579, 2671, 2845, 2943, 2946, 3055, 3200, 3204, 3239, 3335, 3356, 3379, 3387, 3389, 3396, 3457, 3462, 3488, 3494, 3503, 3544, 3545, 3547, 3587, 3590, 3605, 3613, 3630, 3668, 3672, 3673, 3719, 3763, 3808, 3837, 3848, 3856, 3859, 3907, 3920, 3953, 3970, 3972, 3981, 3983, 4053, 4060, 4062, 4063, 4076, 4080, 4165, 4196, 4200, 4226, 4231, 4258, 4266, 4316
Critical	1401, 1470, 1498, 1650, 1718, 1835, 1989, 2007, 2282, 2396, 2792, 2890, 2988, 3408, 3434, 3561, 3635, 3744, 3764, 3904, 3949, 3960, 3968, 4101, 4187, 4213, 4235
Serious	1602, 1779, 1956, 1968, 2078, 2079, 2086, 2334, 2362, 2365, 2479, 2576, 2577, 2702, 2746, 2748, 2839, 2912, 2940, 2941, 2962, 2966, 2968, 2989, 3005, 3274, 3284, 3366, 3377, 3461, 3496, 3497, 3539, 3617, 3621, 3626, 3761, 3832, 4042, 4148, 4222, 4281