

Hong Kong Customs seizes suspected cocaine inside air parcel (with photo)

â€‹Hong Kong Customs seized about 2.5 kilograms of suspected cocaine with an estimated market value of about \$2.5 million at Hong Kong International Airport (HKIA) on July 30.

Customs officers on that day inspected an air parcel that had arrived in Hong Kong from Germany, declared as carrying a water filter, at HKIA and found the batch of suspected cocaine concealed inside three filter elements of the water filter.

After a follow-up investigation, Customs officers today (August 14) arrested a 19-year-old man in Tai Kok Tsui suspected to be connected with the case.

The arrested man has been charged with one count of trafficking in a dangerous drug. He will appear at the Kowloon City Magistrates' Courts tomorrow (August 15).

Customs will continue to maintain close contact with Hongkong Post and the logistics industry to step up action against drug trafficking through postal parcels and express courier channels.

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.

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).



CHP investigates 48 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 14, the CHP was investigating 48 additional confirmed cases of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), taking the number of cases to 4 361 in Hong Kong so far (comprising 4 360 confirmed cases and one probable case).

Among the newly reported cases announced, two 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.

COVID-19 testing service extended to employees of franchised bus companies, kaito operators and driving schools as well as private driving instructors

The Transport Department (TD) announced today (August 14) that, in order to enhance the anti-epidemic measures, the COVID-19 testing service, which

has been provided to the transport trades since mid-July, will be extended to employees of franchised bus companies, kaito operators, designated driving schools, driving improvement schools and pre-service training schools for public light bus drivers, as well as private driving instructors, starting from next Monday (August 17).

For employees of franchised bus companies, the contractor of the testing service will provide swab self-sampling kits to the franchised bus companies starting from August 17. The companies will arrange for distribution and collection of swab self-sampling kits and collection of specimens collected from their employees for testing by the contractor of the testing service.

Kaito operators and their employees can bring along their staff identity cards or letters issued by the operators together with their valid Hong Kong identity cards and visit the designated swab self-sampling kit distribution points at specified time periods on August 18 and 19 for registration and collection of the kits on-site to conduct self-sampling of specimens and should return the specimen bottles to the distribution points as soon as possible. The contractor of the testing service will arrange laboratory testing of the specimens collected.

Private driving instructors holding valid driving instructor licences or employees with staff identity cards or letters issued by driving improvement schools/pre-service training schools for public light bus drivers can bring along the above-mentioned papers and their valid Hong Kong identity cards and visit the designated swab self-sampling kit distribution point at specified time periods on August 20 and 21 for registration and collection of the swab self-sampling kits on-site to conduct self-sampling of specimens and should return the specimen bottles to the collection point as soon as possible. The contractor of the testing service will then send the specimens to laboratories for testing.

The addresses, opening dates and hours of the swab self-sampling kit distribution and specimen bottle collection points are provided in the Annex.

Furthermore, the contractor of the testing service will provide swab self-sampling kits to the designated driving schools, which will in turn arrange for distribution and collection of the kits to their driving instructors and employees and arrange with the contractor for testing of the specimens collected.

The testing is voluntary and free of charge. The contractor will not retain the personal data of the participants. If a participant's test result is positive, the contractor will notify the TD on the specimen serial number. For a specimen serial number that belongs to an employee of a kaito operator, a driving improvement school or a pre-service training school for public light bus drivers, or a private driving instructor, the TD will relay the details of the participant concerned to the Centre for Health Protection (CHP) for its follow-up. For a specimen serial number that belongs to an employee of franchised bus company or a designated driving school, the TD will notify the company concerned to relay the employee's information directly to the CHP.

Each participant can conduct the test through the scheme once only. The TD appeals to the employees of franchised bus companies, kaito operators, designated driving schools, driving improvement schools and pre-service training schools for public light bus drivers, as well as private driving instructors, to actively participate in the testing to ensure public health and minimise risks of the spread of the virus in the community. Taxi and public light bus drivers who have not participated in the testing service from July 17 to August 14 can also visit the points as shown in the Annex to collect swab self-sampling kits for testing. For details of the testing service, please refer to the website of the TD (www.td.gov.hk).

Body found case in Yau Ma Tei reclassified as murder

Police yesterday (August 13) reclassified a body found case in Yau Ma Tei on August 8 as murder.

About 11.30am on August 8, Police found a 44-year-old man collapsed in a park at the junction of Portland Street and Hamilton Street. He was certified dead at scene. Post-mortem examination revealed that the man died of serious internal hemorrhage.

Upon further investigation, Police believed that two men had a money dispute with the 44-year-old man in a unit at 198 Portland Street on August 7 night. They attacked the man with fists and kicks in the process. The man escaped and fell from the unit and was later found collapsed in the park at the junction of Portland Street and Hamilton Street.

Police arrested two men, aged 24 and 25, in Tsim Sha Tsui for murder on August 12 and yesterday (August 13). They are holding charged with one count of murder. The case will be mentioned at Kowloon City Magistrates' Courts tomorrow (August 15).

Active investigation by the Regional Crime Unit of Kowloon West is underway.

Kowloon Hospital announces nurse

tested preliminarily positive for COVID-19

The following is issued on behalf of the Hospital Authority:

The spokesperson for Kowloon Hospital (KH) made the following announcement today (August 14) regarding a nurse who tested preliminarily positive for COVID-19:

A female nurse of an extended care ward at KH was informed by the Centre for Health Protection (CHP) on August 12 that her mother had tested positive for COVID-19 and she was classified as a close contact due to household contact. She presented with sore throat and fever and attended the Accident and Emergency Department of United Christian Hospital in the morning on the same day. Her COVID-19 test result was preliminarily positive yesterday (August 13) and she has been admitted to Tseung Kwan O Hospital for treatment under isolation. The nurse is in stable condition and her last working day was on August 11.

The hospital's infection control team immediately initiated contact tracing. The nurse concerned is responsible for general clinical and nursing care duties in a ward. She has worn appropriate personal protective equipment as well as performed vigilant hand hygiene at work. She did not come into contact with any COVID-19 patients in the hospital and was not required to perform high-risk medical procedures for patients over the past two weeks.

Initial investigation indicated that three staff members in the ward have had meals during meal breaks with the nurse concerned. One of them is listed as a close contact and needs to be quarantined for 14 days. The other two staff members have been classified as other contacts and will be put under 28 days of medical surveillance. So far, no patient has been classified as a close contact.

As a precautionary measure, COVID-19 tests were arranged for a total of 24 patients in the ward and other staff members who have worked together with this nurse in the ward. All the test results were negative.

The hospital has already conducted thorough cleaning and disinfection of the affected ward. KH will continue to closely monitor the health of the staff and patients and communicate with the CHP about the latest situation.