

# Update on investigation into case of Legionnaires' disease in hospital

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health today (July 29) reported an update on its investigation into a case of Legionnaires' disease (LD) in Siu Lam Hospital (SLH) announced earlier.

The CHP identified two additional patients related to the case. They are aged 82 and 39 and had underlying illness. They stayed in the same ward in SLH as the Legionella case announced on July 24. They developed fever on July 14 and July 18 respectively and were admitted to Tuen Mun Hospital.

Their sputum specimen tested positive for Legionella species upon laboratory testing. Their condition are stable. Investigation is ongoing.

"Epidemiological investigations with SLH are ongoing to identify potential sources of infection, high-risk exposure and clusters, if any. Relevant water samples and environmental swabs have been collected from potential sources for laboratory testing," a spokesman for the CHP said.

Tracing of contacts including staff and in-patients in ward is ongoing and those identified have been put under medical surveillance. The CHP has provided health advice against LD to staff and in-patients, including those with weakened immunity who should use sterile or boiled water for drinking, tooth brushing and mouth rinsing. Investigation is ongoing.

Legionellae are found in various environmental settings and grow well in warm water (20 to 45 degrees Celsius). They can be found in aqueous environments such as water tanks, hot and cold water systems, cooling towers, whirlpools and spas, water fountains and home apparatus which support breathing. People may become infected when they breathe in contaminated droplets (aerosols) and mist generated by artificial water systems, or when handling garden soil, compost and potting mixes.

Immunocompromised persons should:

- Use sterile or boiled water for drinking, tooth brushing and mouth rinsing;
- Avoid using humidifiers, or other mist- or aerosol-generating devices. A shower may also generate small aerosols; and
- If using humidifiers, or other mist- or aerosol-generating devices, fill the water tank with only sterile or cooled freshly boiled water, and not water directly from the tap. Also, clean and maintain humidifiers/devices regularly according to manufacturers' instructions. Never leave stagnant water in a humidifier/device. Empty the water tank, wipe all surfaces dry, and change the water daily.

The public should observe the health advice below:

- Observe personal hygiene;

- Do not smoke and avoid alcohol consumption;
- Strainers in water taps and shower heads should be inspected, cleaned, descaled and disinfected regularly or at a frequency recommended by the manufacturer;
- If a fresh-water plumbing system is properly maintained, it is not necessary to install domestic water filters. Use of water filters is not encouraged as clogging occurs easily, which can promote growth of micro-organisms. In case water filters are used, the pore size should be 0.2 micrometres ( $\mu\text{m}$ ) and the filter needs to be changed periodically according to the manufacturer's recommendations;
- Drain and clean water tanks of buildings at least quarterly;
- Drain or purge for at least one minute infrequently used water outlets (e.g. water taps, shower heads and hot water outlets) and stagnant points of the pipework weekly or before use;
- Seek and follow doctors' professional advice regarding the use and maintenance of home respiratory devices and use only sterile water (not distilled or tap water) to clean and fill the reservoir. Clean and maintain the device regularly according to the manufacturer's instructions. After cleaning/disinfection, rinse the device with sterile water, cooled freshly boiled water or water filtered with 0.2  $\mu\text{m}$  filters. Never leave stagnant water in the device. Empty the water tank, keep all surfaces dry, and change the water daily; and
- When handling garden soil, compost and potting mixes:
  1. Wear gloves and a face mask;
  2. Water gardens and compost gently using low pressure;
  3. Open composted potting mixes slowly and make sure the opening is directed away from the face;
  4. Wet the soil to reduce dust when potting plants; and
  5. Avoid working in poorly ventilated places such as enclosed greenhouses.

The public may visit the CHP's LD page, the Code of Practice for Prevention of LD and the Housekeeping Guidelines for Cold and Hot Water Systems for Building Management of the Prevention of LD Committee, and the CHP's risk-based strategy for prevention and control of LD.

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## Over 4 000 specimens collected under HAD's Tsz Wan Shan Testing Scheme today

The Home Affairs Department (HAD) and the Tung Wah Group of Hospitals (TWGHs) together launched the COVID-19 Community Testing Scheme in Tsz Wan Shan (Tsz Wan Shan Testing Scheme) and distributed specimen bottles and registration forms at Ching Tai House, Ching Wo House and the Ancillary Facilities Block in Tsz Ching Estate yesterday (July 28). The TWGHs collected

4 150 sets of registration forms and specimens in total today (July 29), and the specimens have been passed to the testing agency for conducting the testing. The collection of the specimens and registration forms today was smooth and orderly. The number of specimens and forms collected did not exceed the total number of household members as recorded by the Housing Department.

The HAD and the TWGHs today continued to distribute specimen bottles and registration forms at Ching Yi House, Ching Ming House, Ching Yuk House and Ching Tak House in Tsz Ching Estate. Residents were required to present a specified document identifying their residency and were allowed to collect the items once only. To avoid repeated collections by different members of a household, household units which had already collected the items were recorded.

A spokesperson for the HAD said, "We call on the residents to actively participate in the scheme and obtain the requisite number of items by their household size to avoid waste. We will distribute specimen bottles and registration forms at Lok Shun House, Lok Wong House and Lok Foon House in Tsz Lok Estate as well as Man Yue House and Man Tai House in Tsz Man Estate tomorrow (July 30)."

The Tsz Wan Shan Testing Scheme, which involves about 40 000 residents in 22 buildings, must be conducted in an orderly manner. Priority for testing will be accorded to residents of buildings with confirmed cases. Residents of other buildings in the estate should wait for the collection of specimen bottles and registration forms until testing is arranged for the building they reside in.

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## **18 more nomination forms for Legislative Council General Election received**

A total of 18 nomination forms for the 2020 Legislative Council General Election were received today (July 29) by the Returning Officers for the five geographical constituencies and the 29 functional constituencies.

This brings to 132 the total number of nomination forms received since the start of the nomination period on July 18. The nomination period will continue until July 31.

A spokesman for the Registration and Electoral Office advised nominees to submit their nomination forms as early as possible to allow ample time to correct mistakes, if any, in the nomination forms before the deadline.

The number of nomination forms received for each geographical constituency is as follows:

	July 29	Cumulative total
Hong Kong Island:	0	10
Kowloon West:	1	11
Kowloon East:	0	9
New Territories West:	3	15
New Territories East:	3	18
Total:	7	63

The number of nomination forms received for each functional constituency is as follows:

	July 29	Cumulative total
Heung Yee Kuk:	0	1
Agriculture and Fisheries:	0	1
Insurance:	0	1
Transport:	0	1
Education:	0	3
Legal:	0	2
Accountancy:	1	5
Medical:	0	2
Health Services:	0	2
Engineering:	0	3
Architectural, Surveying, Planning and Landscape:	0	2
Labour:	3	6
Social Welfare:	1	4
Real Estate and Construction:	0	1
Tourism:	1	3
Commercial (first):	0	1
Commercial (second):	0	1
Industrial (first):	0	1
Industrial (second):	0	1

Finance:	0	1
Financial Services:	0	3
Sports, Performing Arts, Culture and Publication:	0	3
Import and Export:	0	1
Textiles and Garment:	0	1
Wholesale and Retail:	0	2
Information Technology:	1	2
Catering:	0	3
District Council (first):	2	6
District Council (second):	2	6
Total:	11	69

Particulars of the nominees will be available on the election website ([www.elections.gov.hk/legco2020/eng/nominat.html](http://www.elections.gov.hk/legco2020/eng/nominat.html)).

## **Correctional Services Department combats illicit activities (with photos)**

The Correctional Services Department (CSD) today (July 29) launched an operation at Lai Chi Kok Reception Centre to combat illicit activities.

As revealed by intelligence, some persons in custody of Lai Chi Kok Reception Centre had grievances over the pandemic prevention measures enhanced by the institution management, such as increasing the frequency of cleaning and the compulsory requirement for persons in custody to wear filter masks, etc. These persons plotted to incite fellow persons in custody to engage in collective activities aimed at acting against the institution's management. The institution management immediately placed the activities of target persons in custody under monitoring.

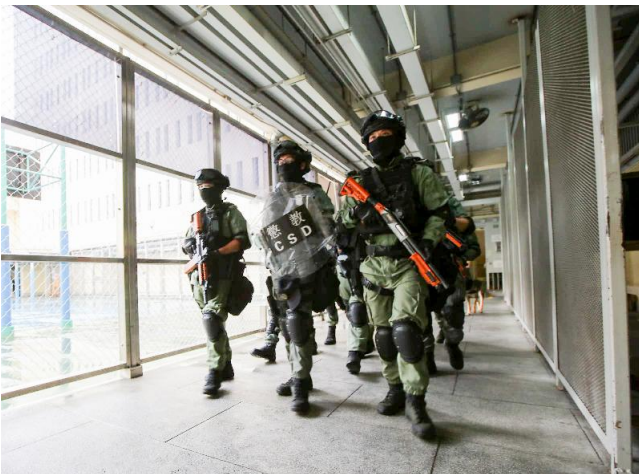
At 10.15am today, while 30 persons in custody of Dayroom 5B were proceeding to the exercise yard, one of the target persons in custody suddenly left the group and attempted to approach another dayroom and

communicate with the persons in custody therein. An officer at the scene immediately stopped the act. Another five persons in custody of Dayroom 5B dashed to join the target person in custody to verbally abuse and provoke the officer. The situation was stirred up by other persons in custody at the scene. Reinforcements swiftly arrived and removed the six persons in custody involved from associating with others and put them under investigation.

Intelligence also revealed that the target person in custody attempted to incite the sentiments of the fellow persons in custody by this incident. Following an assessment and detailed planning, the CSD instantly deployed Regional Response Teams, other reinforcement staff and the Dog Unit to reinforce Lai Chi Kok Reception Centre and conduct searches on the target persons in custody and their locations. Another 10 persons in custody who were suspected of being involved in illicit activities were removed from associating with others for investigation. The operation is still underway. The CSD will continue to closely monitor the development and the activities of the persons in custody concerned.

In order to assist persons in custody to rehabilitate in a safe and orderly environment, the CSD spares no effort in combating illicit activities of all kinds in its institutions. Moreover, the CSD will keep reviewing the pandemic prevention measures in correctional facilities so as to ensure the safety of correctional officers and persons in custody.

Lai Chi Kok Reception Centre is a maximum security institution for the detention of male adult persons in custody who are mostly on remand.



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## Early closure of Tung Yick Market tomorrow for deep cleaning and disinfection

The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) today (July 29) announced that in view of recent confirmed cases of coronavirus disease 2019 found to be related to Tung Yick Market in Yuen Long, the market will be closed an hour earlier tomorrow at 7pm for deep cleaning and disinfection to safeguard the health and safety of market stall tenants and the public.

During the period, FEHD staff will thoroughly clean and disinfect communal areas and facilities in the market, and will call for the co-operation of market tenants to conduct cleaning and disinfection at their respective stalls, with a view to improving the market's overall hygienic condition. In addition, the FEHD will carry out deep cleaning work on the periphery of the market and nearby streets. The cleaning and disinfection work is expected to last about four hours.

A spokesman for the FEHD said, "The FEHD attaches importance to the hygienic condition of public markets. In addition to regular cleaning work in the daytime, market service contractors also conduct thorough cleaning in all markets after the markets are closed every day.

"During this epidemic period, the FEHD has already stepped up cleaning and disinfection of communal areas and facilities in the markets, including toilets, escalators, elevators and stair handrails with diluted household bleach regularly every day. Disinfectant hand sanitisers are also provided in the markets for public use."

The FEHD will continue to closely monitor the situation of its markets, and will conduct deep cleaning and disinfection work in other markets if necessary so as to maintain environmental hygiene.