

Results of targeted surveillance on Salmonella in ready-to-eat food all satisfactory

The Centre for Food Safety (CFS) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department today (July 24) announced the results of a recently completed targeted food surveillance project on Salmonella in ready-to-eat food. All samples passed the test.

A spokesman for the CFS said, "A total of 300 ready-to-eat food samples were collected from different retailers (including online retailers) and food factories for testing of Salmonella this year. The samples included dishes containing eggs, poultry and their products."

Salmonella can be found in eggs and food of animal origin. There is a risk of contracting salmonellosis if a person consumes undercooked food of animal origin, eggs or egg products, or food cross-contaminated with Salmonella.

Salmonella infection may cause fever and gastrointestinal upset such as vomiting, abdominal pain and diarrhoea. The effects on infants, young children, the elderly and patients with a weak immune system can be more severe and sometimes may even lead to death.

Despite the fact that the test results of the samples were all satisfactory, the spokesman reminded the trade and the public not to take the risk lightly. They should maintain good personal and food hygiene to safeguard food safety. For example, they should cook meat, poultry and eggs thoroughly to ensure the juices of the meat are not red, blood is not visible when cooked meat is cut and the egg yolk and white are firm. They should consume cooked food as soon as possible to avoid keeping it at room temperature for a long time. Food manufacturers should take adequate measures to eliminate Salmonella in food during the food production process, and prevent re-contamination of food such as cross-contamination by raw ingredients with Salmonella. Moreover, they may consider choosing pasteurised egg products or dried egg powder to prepare dishes not requiring heat treatment, in particular ready-to-eat desserts.

Special arrangement for CAD's

Personnel Licensing Office counter service to be extended

In the light of the extension of the special work arrangements for government employees, the Civil Aviation Department (CAD) today (July 24) announced that the walk-in counter service of the department's Personnel Licensing Office (PELO) will continue to be temporarily suspended until August 2 and only services scheduled by prior appointment will be maintained.

For enquiries or to make an appointment, please contact the CAD through email (enquiry@cad.gov.hk) or the PELO enquiry hotline (2910 6046).

Latest arrangements for public services of Legal Aid Department

In view of the latest developments of COVID-19 and the Government's special work arrangements, the Legal Aid Department (LAD) announced today (July 24) that the department will provide basic necessary and limited civil and criminal legal aid application and litigation services until further notice.

The opening hours of the offices are as follows:

Offices	Opening hours (from Monday to Friday, except public holidays)
Information and Application Services Unit, Headquarters	9.30am to 1pm and 2pm to 4pm
Information and Application Services Unit, Kowloon Branch Office	9.30am to 1pm and 2pm to 4pm
Crime Section	9.30am to 1pm and 2pm to 4pm
Civil Litigation Section 1	9.30am to 1pm and 2pm to 4pm
Civil Litigation Section 2	9.30am to 1pm and 2pm to 4pm
Costing Unit and Enforcement Unit	9.30am to 1pm and 2pm to 4pm
Shroff Office	9.30am to 1pm and 2pm to 4pm

For enquiries, please contact the following offices during the above

office hours:

- Information and Application Services Unit, Headquarters: 2537 7717 (for civil legal aid services)
- Information and Application Services Unit, Kowloon Branch Office: 2380 0117
- Crime Section: 2867 3139
- Civil Litigation Section 1: 2867 3123
- Civil Litigation Section 2: 2594 7884
- Costing Unit and Enforcement Unit: 2867 3152

Members of the public may also contact the LAD for other enquiries through its 24-hour hotline (2537 7677), via email (ladinfo@lad.gov.hk) or by fax (2537 5948).

The department will review the prevailing public health situation and make further announcements as necessary.

Special arrangement of ICAC services to be extended

The following press release is issued on behalf of the Independent Commission Against Corruption:

In light of the latest situation of the COVID-19 epidemic and to align with the Government's ongoing measures to reduce the risk of the spread of virus in the community, the ICAC today (July 24) announced that the current special arrangement of the Commission's services will be extended till August 2.

During the period, except those who are required to provide essential and emergency public services, all other ICAC staff will work from home so as to reduce the flow of people and social contacts in the community.

Meanwhile, the ICAC's Report Centre and the report corruption hotline (2526 6366) will continue to operate round-the-clock to receive corruption complaints and enquiries. All other enquiry hotlines, including the Corruption Prevention Advisory Service hotline (2526 6363), Business Ethics Development Centre hotline (2826 3288), Clean Elections hotline (2920 7878) and the Integrity Building Management hotline (2929 4555) will also maintain their normal operation.

All ICAC Regional Offices will be closed during the period.

The ICAC will continue to review the latest situation of the epidemic and adjust relevant measures as and when necessary. Further announcement will be made in due course.

United Christian Hospital announces passing away of a COVID-19 patient

The following is issued on behalf of the Hospital Authority:

The spokesman for the United Christian Hospital (UCH) today (July 24) announced that a 74-year-old male COVID-19 confirmed case (case no.: 1338) passed away today.

The patient, who was staying in a residential care home for the elderly, was admitted to the hospital on July 9, his renal and liver function rapidly deteriorated while receiving treatment and his condition continued to worsen and eventually succumbed at 12.48pm today.

The Hospital was saddened about the passing away of the patient and would offer necessary assistance to his family.

Including the above case, 16 COVID-19 patients have passed away in public hospitals so far.