

LCSD promotes sport for all online

To align with the Government's latest anti-epidemic measures, the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) announced that the opening of leisure facilities for free use scheduled for Sport For All Day 2020 on August 2 (Sunday) will be cancelled. The LCSD will instead webcast a new series of physical fitness exercise demonstration videos on that day to encourage the public to stay home and exercise during the epidemic.

The LCSD opens most of its leisure facilities for public use without charge on Sport For All Day, which is held in August annually. It aims to encourage people of all ages and abilities to maintain a healthy lifestyle by participating in sports activities and fostering the habit of exercising at least half an hour a day.

In view of the latest situation of COVID-19, the LCSD has temporarily closed its leisure venues and facilities since July 15, while passive/amenity areas and outdoor jogging tracks at parks remain open.

Members of the public can watch the fitness exercise video on the event website (www.lcsd.gov.hk/en/sfad/2020/index.html) or the online resources centre (www.lcsd.gov.hk/en/onlineresources.html) of the LCSD from August 2. The video will introduce a series of simple and easy-to-learn fitness exercises designed by the Physical Fitness Association of Hong Kong, China, suitable for people to do regularly at home. The LCSD launched the one-stop online resources centre in early April. It offers a variety of e-resources and allows the public to enjoy various leisure and cultural activities online anywhere anytime.

Employment Support Scheme publishes fifth batch of employers receiving wage subsidies and commences disbursement of subsidies to sixth batch of applicants

The Employment Support Scheme (ESS) Secretariat published on the ESS website (www.ess.gov.hk) today (July 21) the name list of the fifth batch of employers that have received wage subsidies, the amount of subsidies received and the employers' committed headcount of paid employees.

A Government spokesman said, "The name list of the fifth batch of employers published today covers about 9 000 employers. These employers have received wage subsidies totalling about \$4.1 billion (for June to August 2020), and committed to maintain a total paid headcount of about 186 000. Together with the published name lists of the first four batches of employers, the Secretariat published from June 22 up to today the name lists of five batches covering about 109 000 employers in total who received wage subsidies and the relevant information."

The spokesman said, "Appropriate monitoring and auditing mechanisms have been put in place under the ESS. During and after the vetting of applications, the Secretariat and/or its processing agent will vet and conduct sample verification of the information submitted by the employers, and conduct on-site checking at those employers' organisations. The work is in progress. Should an employer be found to have abused or violated the conditions of the ESS, the employees concerned or members of the public can make a report to the ESS Secretariat. The Secretariat and the processing agent will follow up on all reports and complaints."

From June 22, when the Secretariat commenced publication of the name lists of employers that have received wage subsidies, to yesterday (July 20), a total of 174 reports have been received. The cases have mainly involved allegations of unreasonable staff reductions and/or dismissal of employees, late payment of wages or pay cuts, company closure or change of operator. The Secretariat and the processing agent are following up the cases and will inform the informants of the results after completing investigation.

If an employer is found, after investigation, to have made a false statement, misinterpreted or concealed the facts, or furnished false or misleading documents or information in an attempt to deceive the Government, the Secretariat and/or the processing agents to obtain any subsidies under the ESS, the employer will be prosecuted. If necessary, the Secretariat will pass the case to relevant enforcement departments for follow-up actions. Should there be complaints relating to provisions under the Employment Ordinance or labour disputes arising from conditions of employment, the Secretariat will refer the cases to the Labour Department. The Secretariat has referred 21 reports or complaints to the Labour Department and one case to the Customs and Excise Department.

In addition, the ESS Secretariat will commence tomorrow (July 22) the disbursement of wage subsidies to the sixth batch of successful employer applicants, comprising about 11 700 employers, with subsidies totalling over \$4.7 billion and a total committed headcount of paid employees of about 200 000. The ESS has disbursed wage subsidies exceeding \$34.2 billion to nearly 121 000 employers in the six batches, with a total committed headcount of paid employees of about 1.47 million. After excluding 12 000 ineligible applicants who have not been approved for wage subsidies, the ESS Secretariat has completed processing for nearly 80 per cent of the applications received from employers.

The ESS Secretariat will continue to process the remaining some 35 000

applications. The Secretariat reminds that the processing agent has, via email, asked employers who have yet to provide correct bank and/or mandatory provident fund account information to submit the supplementary information as soon as possible. The ESS Secretariat will in these few days remind each of these employers via SMS and email that supplementary information should be submitted on or before July 31 so that the Secretariat can complete the processing of applications under the first tranche of the ESS in early August and commence the preparatory work for the second tranche.

In addition, the Secretariat will commence the disbursement of the \$7,500 one-off lump sum subsidy to the sixth batch Self-employed Persons (SEPs), comprising about 3 600 people, today. The total subsidy involved is \$27 million. Six batches SEPs, with a total of about 90 000 applicants, have already received the one-off lump sum subsidy.

Queen Mary Hospital and Prince of Wales Hospital announce passing away of COVID-19 patients

The following is issued on behalf of the Hospital Authority:

The spokesperson for Hospital Authority today (July 21) announced that a 77-year-old male COVID-19 confirmed patient at Queen Mary Hospital (QMH) (case number: 1562) passed away at around 2am today. The patient with chronic diseases attended Accident and Emergency Department of Queen Elizabeth Hospital on July 14 due to fever. He was confirmed positive of COVID-19 and transferred to QMH's isolation ward for treatment. His condition deteriorated on July 16 and the patient was transferred to Adult Intensive Care Unit for treatment and oxygen support. The patient eventually succumbed today.

In addition, a 87-year-old male COVID-19 confirmed case of the Prince of Wales Hospital (PWH) (case number: 1348) passed away at around 2.50am early this morning. The patient, with chronic diseases, was admitted to PWH on July 9. He presented with fever and his condition was stable. He had been deteriorating subsequently and eventually succumbed this morning.

The hospitals were saddened about the passing away of the patients and would offer necessary assistance to family members.

Including the above two cases, 14 COVID-19 patients have passed away in public hospitals so far.

SCED congratulates film director Ann Hui on Golden Lion for Lifetime Achievement at Venice International Film Festival

The Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development, Mr Edward Yau, today (July 21) congratulated renowned Hong Kong film director Ann Hui for receiving the Golden Lion for Lifetime Achievement award at the 77th Venice International Film Festival. She is the first Chinese female film director to be bestowed the honour.

"Ann Hui is a pioneer of Hong Kong and Asian cinemas of our time. The award is in recognition of her exceptional contribution to the film industry. We take pride in her achievement in successfully showcasing to international audiences the top-notch, exquisite and sensational Hong Kong film productions through her unique film language and visual style," Mr Yau said.

The Venice International Film Festival is one of the largest international festivals. Its 77th edition will be held in Venice, Italy in September this year. Previous lifetime achievement awardees include Hong Kong director John Woo.

Mr Yau said that the local film industry has been facing acute challenges in the past year. To re-energise Hong Kong films, the Government has earmarked around \$260 million under the Film Development Fund to implement five major measures to increase the number of local film productions, nurture young directors and scriptwriting talents and enhance professional training to add value to the industry, with a view to providing multi-pronged support for the trade to go through this difficult period.

Latest arrangements for Department of Health public services

In line with the latest adjustments to public services in response to the latest situation of COVID-19 announced by the Government, the Department of Health (DH) reminded members of the public today (July 21) that some non-urgent services under the DH have been adjusted or suspended. The affected services include:

- Maternal and Child Health Centres (MCHCs)
- Child Assessment Service (CAS)
- Student Health Service Centres
- Woman Health Centres
- Elderly Health Centres
- Chest Clinics of Tuberculosis and Chest Service
- Social Hygiene Clinics
- Telephone and online bookings for HIV testing of AIDS Counselling and Testing Service

Please visit the respective websites or contact the relevant clinics and service units direct for details of the service adjustments. These websites can also be accessed via the DH website (www.dh.gov.hk).

Meanwhile, all dental clinics, including government dental clinics, school dental clinics and Oral Maxillofacial Surgery and Dental Clinics (OMS&DCs), will provide dental services limited to dental emergencies and pain relief. Among the above, the OMS&DCs will continue to serve hospital inpatients and provide essential oral and maxillofacial surgery support to hospitals. Families Clinics and the Education and Training Centre in Family Medicine will remain open, though non-urgent services such as health talks will be adjusted or suspended.

While the DH continues to receive and handle applications related to the regulation of private healthcare facilities, pharmaceutical products and Chinese medicines, the relevant services have also been adjusted owing to the latest developments and the processing time of these applications may be lengthened. The public and relevant traders may visit the respective websites for details (Office for Regulation of Private Healthcare Facilities: www.orphf.gov.hk; Drug Office: www.drugoffice.gov.hk; Chinese Medicine Regulatory Office: www.cmro.gov.hk).

In addition, in order to enhance infection control measures including minimising flows of people and social contacts, the DH has advised that family members and friends should avoid accompanying clients to visit the MCHCs/CAS or other clinics/facilities unless there are special reasons to do so. The DH also advised that:

- No more than two parents may accompany a baby aged six months old or below to the MCHCs/CAS; and
- No more than one parent/relative/friend may accompany the service user to clinics/facilities.