

Members of the public to pay attention to Guangdong Province's adjustment of prevention and control measures for persons travelling to Guangdong from Hong Kong

Regarding the announcement made by the Guangdong (GD) Provincial Government tonight (July 16) on the adjustment of the prevention and control measures for persons entering Guangdong from Hong Kong, the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) expressed understanding and will make corresponding arrangements to ensure the smooth implementation of the new measures. The Government noted that following the commencement of summer holiday and as the local epidemic situation turns severe recently, some people in Hong Kong may wish to go north to Guangdong which unduly overburdened the Mainland boundary control points and health quarantine facilities. In light of the situation, the Governments of GD and HKSAR have been in discussion in the spirit of joint prevention and control to fight against the epidemic in both places.

The Government urged members of the public to pay attention to and ensure that they can meet the new requirements when travelling to Guangdong to avoid hiccups when crossing the border. They should particularly pay attention to the requirement of the COVID-19 nucleic acid test, that is, save for persons who received prior approval by GD for performing essential official and business duties, cross-boundary goods vehicle drivers, cross-boundary students, as well as persons who fall under the mutual recognition of compulsory quarantine by GD, Hong Kong and Macao, all other persons would be required to present a valid proof of a valid negative COVID-19 nucleic acid test result issued by one of the testing institutions recognised by the HKSAR Government (The designated testing institutions recognised by the HKSAR Government is at Annex.). The negative test result would only be considered valid if it is within 72 hours from the date of collecting samples

The Government spokesman said, "Before departure to GD, members of the public must bring along the valid proof of negative COVID-19 nucleic acid test result, or otherwise they will be refused entry into GD. When they re-enter Hong Kong after being refused of entry in the Mainland, they will be subjected to compulsory quarantine of 14 days pursuant to the Compulsory Quarantine of Certain Persons Arriving at Hong Kong Regulation (Cap. 599C). Members of the public should pay extra attention to avoid such a situation."

Last but not least, the Government called on members of the public again to avoid going out, keep social distance and avoid dining out in view of the severe epidemic situation. People should put on a surgical mask and maintain stringent hand hygiene when they need to go out. They are also urged to seek

medical attention early even if mild symptoms develop to help prevent the spread of the disease in the community.

Hong Kong Customs seizes suspected dangerous drugs (with photo)

Hong Kong Customs yesterday (July 15) seized about 1.6 kilograms of suspected ketamine, about 32 grams of suspected methamphetamine and a small quantity of suspected herbal cannabis with an estimated market value of about \$830,000 in Tsuen Wan.

During an anti-narcotics operation conducted last night, Customs officers intercepted a man in Tsuen Wan and found a small quantity of suspected ketamine inside the pocket of his trousers. He was then arrested.

After follow-up investigation, Customs officers escorted the arrested man to a residential premises nearby for a search, during which about 1.6kg of suspected ketamine, about 25g of suspected methamphetamine, a small quantity of suspected herbal cannabis and a batch of drug packaging paraphernalia were seized. Later, a small quantity of suspected methamphetamine was further seized inside the arrested man's residence in the district.

The arrested man, aged 47, has been charged with three counts of trafficking in a dangerous drug. He will appear at the West Kowloon Magistrates' Courts tomorrow (July 17).

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 67 additional confirmed cases of COVID-19

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health (DH) has announced that as of 4pm today (July 16), the CHP was investigating 67 additional confirmed cases of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), taking the number of cases to 1 656 in Hong Kong so far (comprising 1 655 confirmed cases and one probable case).

The newly reported cases announced today involve 34 males and 33 females aged between four and 94 years. Among them, four had travel history during the incubation period.

In view of an upsurge of confirmed cases in Hong Kong recently and the tight capacity of quarantine centres, the DH has reviewed the quarantine facilities and available capacity. After risk assessment, the DH considered that a certain number of units in quarantine centres must be reserved for quarantining of close contacts of confirmed patients as priority in view of their higher risk of infection. For Hong Kong residents returning from places with high risk of COVID-19 (including Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, Nepal and South Africa) via the Hong Kong International Airport, after excluding confirmed patients and their close contacts on arrival, the rest of them with negative test results are of relatively lower risk of infection. Hence, starting today (July 16), if the capacity of quarantine centres is saturated, the DH might arrange to send this group of people, who need to be quarantined but are of relatively lower risk, to undergo quarantine in hotel rooms rented by the Government when circumstances warrant.

The DH will assess the capacity of quarantine centres every day. The above arrangement will be implemented if the number of returnees from the above high-risk areas exceeds the capacity of quarantine centres available for use that day as these quarantine centres must be reserved for close

contacts of confirmed patients as priority.

Upon arrival, these returnees will first have to collect their deep throat saliva samples at the DH's Temporary Specimen Collection Centre at AsiaWorld-Expo. If the test result is negative, they will be transferred in coaches to hotel rooms to complete their 14-day compulsory quarantine. If the test result is positive, they will be sent to hospitals for treatment while their close contacts will be sent to quarantine centres.

The DH will issue quarantine orders to these returnees in accordance with the Compulsory Quarantine of Persons Arriving at Hong Kong from Foreign Places Regulation (Cap. 599E). The relevant government department will also arrange electronic wristbands for them. According to quarantine orders, they shall neither leave their hotel rooms nor move around in the hotel during the entire quarantine period. Leaving designated rooms will be regarded as a breach of the quarantine order and constitutes a criminal offence. Offenders are subject to a maximum imprisonment for six months and fine of \$25,000.

The DH will closely monitor the situation locally and overseas, and will adjust the arrangement in a timely manner if necessary.

As for the local cases, the CHP will distribute deep throat saliva specimen bottles to residents of buildings where the patients live, as well as to those with whom they might have had contact during the infectious period. However, as there are recently a large number of confirmed cases, the relevant testing capacity remained limited even though the DH has earlier procured testing services directly from local private laboratories to enhance public testing capacity. Hence, the CHP will, based on risk assessment, accord priority to people with higher risk (for example, those who live in buildings with more than one unit with confirmed cases of unknown source) when distributing specimen bottles for testing. People are also urged to seek medical attention early even if mild symptoms develop to help prevent the spread of the disease in the community.

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.

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 every day 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 infection 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 infection, 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.

Man holding charged with murder

Police today (July 16) laid a holding charge against a man, who is now 50 years old, for murder. He was in suspected connection with a murder case happened in 1993.

In the small hours on June 26, 1993, four men, aged between 18 to 23, disputed with an 18-year-old man in an entertainment venue on Wharf Road, North Point. The four men attacked the 18-year-old man with knives afterwards. The 18-year-old man was sent to hospital and later certified dead. The four males then fled to the Mainland.

Two 18-year-old men returned to Hong Kong from the Mainland on August 3, 1993. They were arrested by Police on the same day. One man was convicted for manslaughter at the High Court in 1994 and was sentenced to seven years' imprisonment. Another man was acquitted after trial.

Active investigation by District Anti-traid section of Eastern District has been underway. Acting on intelligence and obtaining the information of the suspect, Police arrested another suspect, who is now aged 50 and absconded for over 27 years, in Kwun Tong yesterday (July 15).

The arrested man is holding charged with one count of murder. The case will be mentioned at Eastern Magistrates' Courts tomorrow (July 17).

Early closure of Ngau Chi Wan Market and Pei Ho Street Market tomorrow for deep cleaning and disinfection

The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) today (July 16) announced that in view of some recent confirmed cases of coronavirus disease 2019 found to be related to Ngau Chi Wan Market and Pei Ho Street Market, to safeguard the health and safety of market stall tenants and the public, the two markets will be closed an hour earlier tomorrow at 7pm for deep cleaning and disinfection.

During the period, FEHD staff will thoroughly clean and disinfect

communal areas and facilities in the markets, and call on cooperation of market tenants of the two markets to conduct cleaning and disinfection at their respective stalls, with a view to improving the overall hygienic condition of the markets. In addition, the FEHD will carry out deep cleaning work on the periphery of the markets and nearby streets. The cleaning and disinfection work is expected to last about four hours.

A spokesman for the FEHD said, "The FEHD has attached 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 each market, and will conduct deep cleaning and disinfection work in others markets if necessary so as to maintain environmental hygiene.