

## SHA visits youth hostel in Tai Po (with photos)

â€‹The Secretary for Home Affairs, Mr Caspar Tsui, visited the Tai Po youth hostel PH2 operated by the Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups (HKFYG) today (June 22) to learn more about the facilities and daily operation of the hostel.

Accompanied by Deputy Executive Director of the HKFYG Ms Alice Lui, Mr Tsui toured the hostel units and facilities, and exchanged views with representatives of the HKFYG. He was pleased to learn that the HKFYG not only provides hostel units at a level below market rent, but also organises a wide range of activities and provides consultation and counselling services for its tenants, with a view to helping them achieve upward mobility and realise their aspirations.

Mr Tsui said, "The Government endeavours to promote youth development and the Youth Hostel Scheme is one of our important youth development policy initiatives. I would like to express my gratitude to the HKFYG for its efforts in this project. The Home Affairs Bureau will continue to take an active role in facilitating co-ordination and communication between non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and different government departments, with a view to providing more youth hostel units as soon as possible."

The PH2, the first youth hostel project under the Youth Hostel Scheme in Hong Kong, has started its intake of tenants at the end of March this year. It offers 80 places, each equipped with basic amenities, for eligible working youths to apply for rent. The HKFYG also provides various common facilities for the tenants to use.

The Government has implemented the Youth Hostel Scheme with an aim to encourage NGOs to unleash the potential of development sites so as to achieve optimal land use, and to meet the aspirations of working youths in having their own living spaces. The Government will fund the full capital costs of youth hostel projects carried out by participating NGOs. Upon completion, NGOs will run the youth hostels on a self-financing basis.



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## [Update on cases of Legionnaires' disease](#)

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health today (June 22) reported the latest number of cases of Legionnaires' disease (LD), and stressed the importance of using and maintaining properly designed man-made water systems, adding that susceptible groups should strictly observe relevant precautions.

From June 14 to 20, four LD cases were reported:

1. A male patient, aged 68 with underlying illnesses, who lives in Tak On House, Hau Tak Estate, Tseung Kwan O;
2. A male patient, aged 61 with underlying illnesses, who lives in Block B, Ap Lei Chau Centre, Ap Lei Chau;
3. A male patient, aged 72 with underlying illnesses, who lived in South Eastern House, Yau Ma Tei, passed away on June 18; and
4. A male patient, aged 64 without underlying illnesses, who lives in Shenzhen and works as a cross-border truck driver. He drives to Hong Kong and returns to Shenzhen on the same evening.

"Epidemiological investigations are ongoing to identify potential sources of infection, high-risk exposures and clusters, if any," a spokesman for the CHP said.

As of June 20 this year, 42 LD cases had been reported. In 2019 and 2018, there were 105 cases each year.

"Men, people aged over 50, smokers, alcoholics and persons with weakened immunities are more susceptible to LD. Some situations may also increase the risk of infection including poor maintenance of water systems leading to stagnant water; living in areas with old water systems, cooling towers or fountains; using electric water heaters, whirlpools and spas or hot water spring spas; and recent stays in hotels or vessels," the spokesman said.

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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## [Effective Exchange Rate Index](#)

The effective exchange rate index for the Hong Kong dollar on Monday, June 22, 2020 is 107.8 (down 0.1 against last Saturday's index).

The effective exchange rate index for the Hong Kong dollar on Saturday, June 20, 2020 was 107.9 (up 0.1 against last Friday's index).

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## Music Office's School Care Subsidy Scheme opens for applications from schools

The 2020/21 School Care Subsidy Scheme is now accepting applications from schools. The deadline for applications is September 30.

Organised by the Music Office of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department, the scheme aims to encourage music groups from kindergartens, primary, secondary and special schools and tertiary institutions to care for the community. It is hoped that students will extend their good wishes to special school students and the beneficiaries of social welfare organisations through free music performances, and thereby enhance social integration and harmony. Through the activities, students can gain experience from performances while serving the community, as well as develop stronger team spirit and better organisational skills.

Each activity can receive a maximum subsidy of \$2,000 to cover costs including transportation, allowances for professionals and other miscellaneous items.

Successful applicants must complete their performances on or before March 31 next year. Outstanding teams will be invited to perform and share their experiences at the Gala Concert to be held in April or May next year. All participating teams will be awarded certificates of commendation during the concert.

Applications will be evaluated according to the proposed activity's feasibility, ingenuity and interactive elements, as well as the music group's prior experience in organising and performing at community events. Application forms are now available at all music centres of the Music Office and downloadable from the website ([www.lcsd.gov.hk/musicoffice](http://www.lcsd.gov.hk/musicoffice)). Completed forms must be faxed (2824 1989) or emailed ([ccc@lcsd.gov.hk](mailto:ccc@lcsd.gov.hk)) to the Music Office.

A total of 350 school music groups have participated in the School Care Subsidy Scheme since its launch in 2009. The scheme is sponsored by the Sino Group.

For enquiries, please call 2598 8335 or 3842 7775.

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# US Dollar Liquidity Facility tender notice

The following is issued on behalf of the Hong Kong Monetary Authority:

US Dollar Liquidity Facility tender notice:

Tender date	: June 24 (Wednesday)
Tender submission time	: 9am to noon
Settlement date	: June 26 (Friday)
Repayment date	: July 2 (Thursday)
Tenor	: Six Days
Amount on offer	: US\$10,000 Million

Note: Licensed Banks interested in participating in the tender for the first time are encouraged to provide US dollar settlement instructions by email ([settlementsection@hkma.gov.hk](mailto:settlementsection@hkma.gov.hk)) to the HKMA's Settlement Team in advance, preferably two days prior to the tender. Required information includes name of corresponding bank, name of final beneficiary (must be the Licensed Bank participating in the tender), and account or CHIPS number of a US dollar bank account to be settled in the US. Such information needs to be provided once only, unless there is further change.