

Correctional officers stop person in custody committing self-harm

Correctional officers stopped a person in custody committing self-harm at Lo Wu Correctional Institution yesterday (June 14).

At 9.13pm yesterday, the 24-year-old female person in custody was found emotionally unstable and she banged her head against the grille gate and the floor inside the observation cell of the institution hospital. Officers at the scene immediately ordered her to stop the act and called for reinforcement. The person in custody was found conscious. After receiving examination and treatment in the institution hospital, she was required to be sent to a public hospital for further treatment.

A clinical psychologist of the department will follow up on the case.

A spokesman for the Correctional Services Department said, "The department uses all possible measures to prevent people in its custody from attempting suicide or self-harm. These measures include administrative arrangements, improvement of institution facilities, staff training and first aid services."

The person in custody was sentenced to imprisonment for the offence of riot in November 2019.

LegCo Public Accounts Committee to hold public hearing tomorrow

The following is issued on behalf of the Legislative Council Secretariat:

The Legislative Council (LegCo) Public Accounts Committee (PAC) will hold a public hearing on "Sports Federation & Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, China" (Chapter 2) of the Director of Audit's Report No.74 tomorrow (June 16) at 9am in Conference Room 1 of the LegCo Complex.

Five witnesses have been invited to appear before the above hearing to respond to points raised in the Report and answer questions asked by the PAC members.

The programme for the public hearing is as follows:

Date: June 16 (Tuesday)

Time: 9am

Venue: Conference Room 1

Subject: Sports Federation & Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, China (Chapter 2 of the Director of Audit's Report No.74)

Witnesses:

Secretary for Home Affairs
Mr Caspar Tsui

Commissioner for Sports
Mr Yeung Tak-keung

Principal Assistant Secretary (Recreation and Sport) 1, Home Affairs Bureau
Mr Paul Cheng

Honorary Secretary General, Sports Federation & Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, China
Mr Ronnie Wong

Executive Director, Sports Federation & Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, China
Mr Abraham Cheng

The PAC is chaired by Mr Abraham Shek, and its Deputy Chairman is Mr Kenneth Leung. Other members include Mr Paul Tse, Mr Steven Ho, Mr Lam Cheuk-ting, Mr Shiu Ka-fai and Ms Tanya Chan.

CHP investigates two suspected food poisoning clusters

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health is today (June 15) investigating two suspected food poisoning clusters affecting eight persons, and reminded the public to maintain personal, food and environmental hygiene to prevent food-borne diseases.

The first cluster involved two males and two females aged 29 to 32, who developed abdominal pain and diarrhoea about eight to 12 hours after having dinner at a restaurant in Mong Kok on June 11.

Another cluster involved four males aged 24 to 28, who developed similar symptoms about nine to 18 hours after having dinner at the same restaurant on the same day.

Three of the affected persons sought medical advice and none required hospitalisation. All of the affected persons are in a stable condition.

"We have alerted the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department to the incident and investigations are ongoing," a spokesman for the CHP said.

To prevent food-borne diseases, members of the public are reminded to maintain personal, food and environmental hygiene at all times. When dining out:

- Patronise only reliable and licensed restaurants;
- Avoid eating raw seafood;
- Be a discerning consumer in choosing cold dishes, including sashimi, sushi and raw oysters, at a buffet;
- Ensure food is thoroughly cooked before eating during a hot pot or barbecue meal;
- Handle raw and cooked foods carefully and separate them completely during the cooking process;
- Use two sets of chopsticks and utensils to handle raw and cooked food;
- Do not patronise illegal food hawkers;
- Drink boiled water;
- Do not try to use salt, vinegar, wine and wasabi to kill bacteria as they are not effective; and
- Always wash hands before eating and after going to the toilet.

Public hospitals daily update on COVID-19 cases

The following is issued on behalf of the Hospital Authority:

As at noon today (June 15), no COVID-19 confirmed patient was discharged from hospital in the past 24 hours. So far, a total of 1,067 patients with confirmed or probable infection have been discharged.

At present, there are 644 negative pressure rooms in public hospitals with 1,199 negative pressure beds activated. A total of 40 confirmed patients are currently hospitalised in eight hospitals, among which three patients are in critical condition (case numbers: 595, 1084 and 1100), one patient is in serious condition (case number: 1092) and the remaining 36 patients are in stable condition.

The Hospital Authority will maintain close contact with the Centre for Health Protection to monitor the latest developments and to inform the public and healthcare workers on the latest information in a timely manner.

Government announces mechanism for legal practitioners providing services for important and large-scale commercial transactions to apply for exemption from compulsory quarantine arrangement

The Government announced today (June 15) the mechanism for legal practitioners providing necessary professional services in relation to important and large-scale commercial transactions to apply for exemption from the compulsory quarantine arrangement. The Department of Justice (DoJ) has started processing applications today.

The Compulsory Quarantine of Certain Persons Arriving at Hong Kong Regulation (Cap. 599C) has been extended until July 7, 2020. In accordance with section 4(1)(b) of the Regulation, the Chief Secretary for Administration may designate any person or category of persons for exemption from the compulsory quarantine arrangement if he is satisfied that the person's or persons' travelling is necessary for purposes relating to the provision of professional services in the interest of Hong Kong's economic development.

Pursuant to the above-mentioned provision, the Chief Secretary for Administration has recently exempted the following categories of persons from the compulsory quarantine arrangement:

A qualified legal practitioner acting for a party in an important and large-scale commercial transaction, being transactions for listing on the Stock Exchange of Hong Kong or notifiable transactions of listed companies under the applicable listing rules of the Stock Exchange of Hong Kong, who either (i) travels from the Mainland, Macao or Taiwan to Hong Kong to provide necessary legal services that require on-site physical presence in relation to the aforesaid transaction or (ii) returns to Hong Kong from the Mainland, Macao or Taiwan after provision of necessary legal services that require on-site physical presence in relation to the aforesaid transaction.

An exempted person must only travel to and stay in the area/city where the services are provided for the purpose of provision of the intended services as approved, and must take every precautionary measure to ensure personal hygiene and avoid unnecessary social contact. After arriving in or returning to Hong Kong, the exempted person will be subject to medical surveillance arranged by the Department of Health for a period of 14 days.

The person will be required to wear masks and check body temperature daily, and report to the Department of Health on any discomfort.

Currently, travellers to the Mainland and Macao would still be subject to the 14-day compulsory quarantine requirement imposed by the Mainland and Macao authorities. The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region is discussing with authorities in the Mainland and Macao on mutual recognition of COVID-19 testing results conducted by recognised medical laboratories, with a view to exempting the quarantine requirement for Hong Kong travellers to these places. Details of the arrangement will be announced when available.

The details of the above exemption arrangement for legal practitioners and the application form are available on the DoJ's website (www.doj.gov.hk/eng/public/20200519_sj01.html). Eligible legal practitioners should submit the completed application form with all required supporting documents to the DoJ by email (idar@doj.gov.hk).

In processing the applications, the DoJ may consult the relevant bodies, when necessary. The DoJ will issue authorisation letters to the exempted persons, setting out the details and conditions of exemption.

The new mechanism has been launched in addition to the mechanism implemented since May 19 which allows legal practitioners, arbitrators and mediators providing necessary professional services in arbitration, mediation or litigation proceedings to apply for exemption from the compulsory quarantine requirement under the Regulation. Both mechanisms are conducive to promoting Hong Kong's economic development.