

Work arrangements after rainstorm warnings

The Labour Department (LD) today (June 7) reminded employers to make practical and reasonable work arrangements for staff after rainstorms. Employers should also make flexible arrangements for staff to resume work after a rainstorm warning is cancelled, with due consideration to road, traffic and other conditions. This will help maintain good labour-management relations, and ensure the safety of employees and the smooth operation of organisations.

"For staff who have practical difficulties in resuming work on time upon cancellation of a rainstorm warning, employers should give due consideration to the situations of individual employees and handle each case flexibly. As rainstorms are natural occurrences that cannot be avoided, for employees who are not able to report for duty or resume duty on time due to adverse weather conditions, employers should not withhold their wages, good attendance bonus or allowances without reasons. Employers should enquire into the reasons and give due consideration to the exceptional circumstances in each case, and should not penalise or dismiss the employee concerned rashly," an LD spokesman said.

The spokesman also reminded employers to observe the statutory liabilities and requirements under the Employment Ordinance, the Occupational Safety and Health Ordinance, the Factories and Industrial Undertakings Ordinance, the Employees' Compensation Ordinance and the Minimum Wage Ordinance.

Employers should not deduct the annual leave, statutory holidays or rest days employees are entitled to under the Employment Ordinance so as to compensate for the loss of working hours resulting from employees' failure to report for duty upon the issuance of a Black Rainstorm Warning. An employer who without reasonable excuse fails to comply with relevant provisions under the Employment Ordinance is liable to prosecution.

Employers should also note that they have an obligation to provide and maintain a safe working environment for their employees under the Occupational Safety and Health Ordinance.

The LD has published the "Code of Practice in Times of Typhoons and Rainstorms", which outlines the major principles, the framework, the reference guidelines and information on relevant legislation for reference. The booklet can be obtained from branch offices of the Labour Relations Division or downloaded from the department's webpage (www.labour.gov.hk/eng/public/wcp/Rainstorm.pdf).

Liquor Licensing Board to meet on Tuesday

The following is issued on behalf of the Liquor Licensing Board:

The Liquor Licensing Board (LLB) will meet on Tuesday (June 9) to consider nine applications for the new issue, renewal, transfer and amendment of liquor licences.

The applications are (not in order of discussion):

Hong Kong:

Cyun Hau in Kennedy Town
Cali-Mex in Sai Ying Pun
Frites Belgium on Tap in Wan Chai
Bar Pacific in Sai Wan Ho

Kowloon:

Bar Pacific in Tai Kok Tsui
Point After, FUTURE LOUNGE, Luxe and Single's Spot in Mong Kok

The board will also consider revocation of the liquor licences of Simmer Huang in Tsim Sha Tsui and K house in Sham Shui Po.

The meeting will be held at 9.45am in the conference room, Room 102, 1/F, 258 Queen's Road East, Wan Chai. In response to the latest developments of coronavirus disease 2019, to avoid the gathering of people in an enclosed environment and to safeguard the health of all participants, public seats will not be available for all open hearings of the LLB in the interim.

Classes of all schools are suspended this afternoon

Attention TV and radio duty announcers:

Please broadcast the following special announcement by the Education Bureau concerning schools, and repeat it at suitable intervals:

As the Red Rainstorm Warning Signal is now in force, classes of all schools are suspended this afternoon. Schools which are in session should continue until the end of school hours. They should ensure that conditions are safe before allowing students to return home.

Students and public reminded to allow more travelling time for class resumption of Primary Four to Secondary Two students tomorrow

The Transport Department (TD) said today (June 7) that in view of the class resumption of Primary Four to Secondary Two students tomorrow (June 8), students are reminded to attend school early as traffic is expected to be busier than normal.

The TD's Emergency Transport Co-ordination Centre will closely monitor the traffic situation and public transport services. It will also maintain close liaison with major public transport operators and relevant government departments and arrange public transport service enhancements when necessary.

Students and members of the public are advised to pay attention to the latest transport and traffic news before leaving home and allow more travelling time.

E-learning keeps students connected

Classes are gradually resuming after more than three months of suspension due to the COVID-19 pandemic. During the period, the Education Bureau provided support and resources to equip teachers with the relevant teaching strategies for e-learning.

News.gov.hk spoke to teachers, students and parents about their experience of home learning during the class suspension and how it could

serve as a reference for the future development of online teaching.

The story appears on news.gov.hk (June 7) in text and video format.