

# Update on suspected food poisoning cases

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health today (May 22) provided an update on its investigation into two suspected food poisoning cases involving sandwiches announced yesterday (May 21), and reminded the public to maintain personal, food and environmental hygiene to prevent food-borne diseases.

Subsequent to its follow-up investigation, the CHP has identified nine more clusters of suspected food poisoning relating to those sandwiches. The newly reported clusters involved five males and 15 females aged 1 to 68. They developed gastroenteritis symptoms including abdominal pain, vomiting, diarrhoea and fever about four to 43 hours after consuming the sandwiches between May 18 and 21. Among them, 16 sought medical consultation and five required hospitalisation.

All affected persons are now in stable condition. Investigations are proceeding.

"Prolonged storage of food at room temperature may allow pathogens to grow and produce toxins. Members of the public should avoid consuming cooked or ready-to-eat food that has been kept at room temperature for several hours," 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.
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# Meetings of Legislative Council and its Committees

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

Details of the meetings of the Legislative Council (LegCo) and its Committees to be held in the LegCo Complex during the week from May 25 to 29 are available in the meeting schedule attached.

The information in the meeting schedule is subject to change. Please refer to the "LegCo Calendar" on the LegCo Website ([www.legco.gov.hk](http://www.legco.gov.hk)) for the latest details of meetings.

Members of the public can watch or listen to the meetings via the "Webcast" system on the LegCo Website. To observe the proceedings of the meetings at the LegCo Complex, members of the public may call 3919 3399 during office hours to reserve seats.

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## Hong Kong Customs seizes suspected dangerous drugs (with photo)

Hong Kong Customs seized about 3.7 kilograms of suspected ketamine and about 2.5kg of suspected cocaine with an estimated market value of about \$4.9 million at Hong Kong International Airport on May 15.

Customs officers inspected an air consignment arriving in Hong Kong from the Netherlands on that day and found the batch of suspected ketamine and suspected cocaine concealed inside 25 brick boxes.

Customs officers yesterday (May 21) conducted a follow-up investigation in Mong Kok. A small quantity of suspected methamphetamine and a drug-inhaling apparatus were further seized inside the private car of a man suspected to be connected with the case. The man was then arrested.

The arrested man, aged 37, has been charged with one count of possession in a dangerous drug and one count of possession of apparatus fit and intended for the inhalation of a dangerous drug. He will appear at West Kowloon Magistrates' Courts on May 25.

Customs will maintain close contact with Hongkong Post and the logistics industries to step up action against drug trafficking through postal parcels and express courier channels.

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](mailto:crimereport@customs.gov.hk)).



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## Public hospitals daily update on COVID-19 cases

The following is issued on behalf of the Hospital Authority:

As at noon today (May 22), no COVID-19 confirmed patient was discharged from hospital in the past 24 hours. So far, a total of 1 029 confirmed and suspected patients have been discharged.

At present, there are 659 negative pressure rooms in public hospitals with 1 219 negative pressure beds activated. A total of 31 confirmed patients are currently hospitalised in eight hospitals, among which one patient is in critical condition (case number: 595), one patient is in serious condition (case number: 1 049), and the remaining 29 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.

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# LegCo Public Accounts Committee to hold public hearing

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 next Monday (May 25) at 9am in Conference Room 2 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: May 25 (Monday)

Time: 9am

Venue: Conference Room 2

Subject:

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

Witnesses:

Mr Caspar Tsui

Secretary for Home Affairs

Mr Yeung Tak-keung

Commissioner for Sports

Mr Paul Cheng

Principal Assistant Secretary (Recreation and Sport)<sup>1</sup>, Home Affairs Bureau

Mr Ronnie Wong

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

Mr Abraham Cheng

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

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.