

Suspected fraudulent website

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

The Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA) wishes to alert members of the public in Hong Kong to a suspected fraudulent website with the domain name <https://dinosaurciti.com>. The website is operated by an alleged Dinosaurciti Bank.

The public should be aware that Dinosaurciti Bank is not authorised by the Monetary Authority (MA) under the Banking Ordinance to carry on banking business or the business of taking deposits in Hong Kong, nor does it have the MA's approval to establish a local representative office.

The HKMA has referred the case to the Hong Kong Police Force for further investigation. Anyone who has provided his or her personal information to the website or has conducted any financial transactions through the website should contact any local Police Station or the Cyber Security and Technology Crime Bureau of the Hong Kong Police Force at 2860 5012.

Given the global nature of the Internet, members of the public are reminded to verify the status of any organisation making use of the Internet to solicit deposits from the public. A list of authorised institutions is available on the HKMA's website (www.hkma.gov.hk). Members of the public may also check the status of any entity in Hong Kong which solicits deposits from the public with the HKMA by emailing its public enquiry service (publicenquiry@hkma.gov.hk).

Government welcomes HKQAA's Green Finance Certification Scheme – ESG Fund

The Hong Kong Quality Assurance Agency (HKQAA) today (May 14) announced the launch of its Green Finance Certification Scheme – ESG Fund to provide third-party conformity assessments on the environmental, social and governance (ESG) fund and further promote ESG initiatives with a view to directing capital flows towards green and sustainable uses.

The Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury, Mr Christopher Hui, said, "We welcome the HKQAA's launch of its Green Finance Certification Scheme – ESG Fund. Building on the success of the certification scheme for green debt instruments and the green fund introduced in 2018 and 2019

respectively, the extension to the ESG fund will promote more disclosure and strengthen market confidence in green financial products as we continue to develop and consolidate Hong Kong as the leading hub for green finance in the region.

"We are pleased to note the increasing market awareness of ESG efforts in Hong Kong. The Government will continue to support the certification scheme and encourage more local, Mainland and overseas entities to make use of the scheme and Hong Kong's capital markets for ESG investments and financing."

North District Hospital announces malfunction incident of negative pressure system in isolation ward

The following is issued on behalf of the Hospital Authority:

The spokesperson for the North District Hospital made the following announcement today (May 13) concerning a malfunction incident of the negative pressure system in the isolation ward last night (May 12):

At around 11.32pm last night, a resident staff of the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) noted via the central control and monitoring system that a damper of the negative pressure exhaust system in a single room of the Hospital's isolation ward was unstable, triggering the system alarm. The same damper had been found to have malfunctioned on May 10 afternoon. The EMSD staff immediately adjusted the damper. The system resumed normal in three minutes. The negative pressure exhaust system of the other cubicles and rooms of the isolation ward was functioning properly during the incident.

A patient was hospitalised in that room and was not a COVID-19 confirmed case. The ward staff inside the ward had all worn appropriate personal protective equipment including N95 respirators and isolation gowns. The infection risk has been assessed to be extremely low. The room has been vacated for the EMSD's thorough checking and repair.

The Hospital is very concerned that three different malfunction incidents have occurred in the negative pressure system of the isolation ward within a week. The Hospital has urged the EMSD to thoroughly check the whole system to ensure its proper functioning and to submit a detailed investigation report.

The incident has been reported to the Hospital Authority Head Office via

Hong Kong Customs seizes suspected illicit cigarettes and illicit heat-not-burn products (with photos)

Hong Kong Customs today (May 13) detected two suspected illicit cigarette cases and seized a total of about 170 000 suspected illicit cigarettes and about 130 000 suspected illicit heat-not-burn (HNB) products with an estimated market value of about \$830,000 and a duty potential of about \$570,000 in Kwun Tong, Tseung Kwan O, Causeway Bay and Tuen Mun.

Customs officers seized about 150 000 suspected illicit cigarettes at an industrial building unit in Kwun Tong in the early hours today and arrested a 51-year-old man. Later, Customs officers further seized about 20 000 suspected illicit cigarettes in the premises of the arrested man in Tseung Kwan O. The arrested man was charged with contravening the Dutiable Commodities Ordinance (DCO) and will appear at Kwun Tong Magistrates' Courts tomorrow (May 14).

Also, during an anti-illicit cigarette operation in Causeway Bay this afternoon, Customs officers intercepted a man and two women, aged between 21 and 40, and seized about 100 000 suspected illicit HNB products. Upon follow-up investigation, Customs officers further seized about 30 000 suspected illicit HNB products from a batch of parcels at a mail centre in Tuen Mun. Investigation is ongoing.

Under the DCO, tobacco products are dutiable goods to which the DCO applies. All HNB products containing tobacco in content are also dutiable goods subject to the control of the DCO. Any person who imports, possesses, sells or buys dutiable commodities without a valid licence commits an offence. The maximum penalty upon conviction is a fine of \$1 million and imprisonment for two years.

Members of the public may report any suspected illicit cigarette activities to Customs' 24-hour hotline 2545 6182 or its dedicated crime-reporting email account (crimereport@customs.gov.hk).



CHP investigates three additional confirmed cases of COVID-19

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health has announced that as of 4pm today (May 13), the CHP was investigating three additional confirmed cases of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), taking the number of cases to 1 051 in Hong Kong so far (comprising 1 050 confirmed cases and one probable case).

The CHP will further extend its Enhanced Laboratory Surveillance Programme, which provides a free testing service for COVID-19, to cover staff members currently working at Hong Kong International Airport (HKIA) starting this Friday (May 15).

A spokesman for the CHP said, "Airport workers belong to the higher-risk groups as they have more frequent contact with arriving passengers who have been to places with high incidence of COVID-19. The enhanced testing of this group may help in early detection of possible cases of COVID-19 infection and reduce the risk of community outbreaks.

"The DH's personnel will set up a service point at a designated location at HKIA to provide specimen containers to the relevant airport workers. They are required to collect their deep throat saliva samples by themselves in accordance with the instructions, and to return the specimen containers to the designated location at HKIA. The current daily testing quota is 500 persons."

Meanwhile, the CHP is working out feasible ways to further extend its Enhanced Laboratory Surveillance Programme to cover staff members working at residential care homes for the elderly, residential care homes for persons with disabilities and nursing homes.

The newly reported cases announced today involve one male and two females aged between 5 and 66. One of them had travel history during the incubation period. 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.

The CHP urged members of the public to maintain an appropriate social distance with other people as far as possible in their daily lives. In particular, they should go out less and avoid social activities such as meal gatherings or other gatherings to reduce the chance of infection by contact with infected persons, who may not present any symptoms, and minimise the risk of outbreak clusters emerging in the community.

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 if 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."

The CHP will report the cases to the World Health Organization, the National Health Commission, the Health Commission of Guangdong Province, relevant health authorities and the Hospital Authority.

The CHP has set up hotlines (2125 1111 and 2125 1122), which operate from 8am to midnight daily, for public enquiries. As at 4pm today, a total of 112 063 calls had been received.

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.

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 door knobs, 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

- If 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.