

CHP investigates a cluster of Legionnaires' disease in Kwun Tong

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health is today (February 14) investigating a cluster of Legionnaires' disease (LD) cases in Kwun Tong, involving two patients, and stressed the importance of using and maintaining properly designed man-made water systems and that susceptible groups should strictly observe relevant precautions.

The two LD cases included:

1. A male patient, aged 56 with underlying illness, who lives in Choi Hay House, Choi Fook Estate;
2. A male patient, aged 62 with underlying illness, who lives in Wang Kwong Building, 33 Ngau Tau Kok Road.

Patients' samples tested positive for *Legionella pneumophila* serogroup 1 antigen.

"Epidemiological investigations revealed that the two patients had no travel history in the incubation period (IP). The CHP is following up on the collection of environmental and water samples and continuing its investigation. Investigations are ongoing to identify potential sources of infection," a spokesman for the CHP said.

Meanwhile, CHP also announced an update on its investigations into the recent cluster involving 11 patients. According to laboratory results, clinical specimen of six patients of the cluster and water samples collected from two cooling towers at the Choi Hung MTR station revealed the same sequence type of *Legionella pneumophila* serogroup 1. Investigating is ongoing.

"Men, people aged over 50, smokers, alcoholics and persons with weakened immunity 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 (μm) 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 μm 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.

Missing woman in Hung Hom located

A woman who went missing in Hung Hom has been located.

Chan Cheuk-ting Jessica, aged 25, went missing after she left her residence in Oi Man Estate on February 11 morning. Her family made a report to Police on the next day.

The woman returned to her residence this morning (February 14). She sustained no injuries and no suspicious circumstances were detected.

Immigration Department services arrangements

The Immigration Department (ImmD) announced today (February 14) the provision of basic and limited public services from February 17 to 23 as follows:

Types of Services	Sections / Offices	Address	Services available
Travel Documents	Travel Documents and Nationality (Application) Section and Travel Documents (Issue) Section	4th Floor, Immigration Tower, Wan Chai	Urgent application and collection of Hong Kong travel documents only. (For those who have successfully applied for their Hong Kong travel documents, which are due for collection at other Immigration branch offices, they may call 2852 3045 during working hours for enquiries)
	West Kowloon Branch Office	Ground Floor, 28 Kimberley Street, Tsim Sha Tsui	
	Yuen Long Branch Office	1st Floor, Yuen Long Government Offices	

Identity Cards	Hong Kong Registration of Persons Office	8th Floor, Immigration Tower, Wan Chai	Replacement of identity cards and first registration of identity cards for new arrivals to Hong Kong only. (Identity card replacement service for those aged 11 and 18 and other identity card related services are temporarily suspended.) (For enquiries regarding identity cards, please call 3521 6565 during working hours)
	Kowloon Registration of Persons Office	3rd Floor, Cheung Sha Wan Government Offices	
	Yuen Long Registration of Persons Office	1st Floor, Yuen Long Government Offices	
Visa and Extension of Stay	Foreign Domestic Helpers Section	3rd Floor, Immigration Tower, Wan Chai	All existing services
	Extension Section	5th Floor, Immigration Tower, Wan Chai	
	Quality Migrants and Mainland Residents Section	6th Floor, Immigration Tower, Wan Chai	Application for extension of stay only
	Other Visas and Permits Section	7th Floor, Immigration Tower, Wan Chai	
Right of Abode	Right of Abode Section	25th Floor, Immigration Tower, Wan Chai	All existing services
Marriage Registration	All Marriage Registries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Admiralty • City Hall • Cotton Tree Drive • Tsim Sha Tsui • Sha Tin • Tuen Mun 	Giving a Notice of Intended Marriage and conducting marriage ceremonies at Marriage Registries only

Births Registration	The Births and Deaths General Register Office	3rd Floor, Low Block, Queensway Government Offices	Birth registration only (For those who have made appointment at other Birth Registries, ImmD will contact them for further arrangement)
	Kowloon Births Registry	Lower Ground Floor, 28 Kimberley Street, Tsim Sha Tsui	
Deaths Registration	The Births and Deaths General Register Office	3rd Floor, Low Block, Queensway Government Offices	Registration of death only
	Hong Kong Island Deaths Registry	18th Floor, Wu Chung House, Wan Chai	
	Kowloon Deaths Registry	1st Floor, Cheung Sha Wan Government Offices	

The abovementioned offices will provide services during normal opening hours. For detailed opening hours of individual offices, please refer to ImmD's official website or mobile application. Meanwhile, other ImmD offices, including all Smart Identity Card Replacement Centres, and other public services will be temporarily closed and suspended.

Immigration control points, except for the arrangement made by the Government's separate announcement, will maintain normal operations. The 1868 hotline will continue to operate as normal to provide practicable assistance for Hong Kong residents in distress outside Hong Kong.

The measures will be implemented tentatively until February 23 and will be reviewed according to the situation. Detailed arrangements will be announced in due course. Those who have made an appointment for immigration services may proceed to respective offices afterwards for relevant applications without the need of making a new appointment.

For enquiries, please contact the ImmD by calling the enquiry hotline at 2824 6111 or by email to enquiry@immd.gov.hk.

DH appoints officers from disciplinary

forces to assist in spot checks on persons under compulsory quarantine

The Department of Health (DH) today (February 14) appointed officers from the Correctional Services Department (CSD), Hong Kong Customs and Excise Department (C&ED), the Fire Services Department (FSD) and the Immigration Department (ImmD) to assist in enforcing the Compulsory Quarantine of Certain Persons Arriving at Hong Kong Regulation (Cap 599C) so as to ensure that persons under compulsory quarantine stay at their dwelling places for the compulsory quarantine.

Apart from persons exempted under the Regulation, the DH will issue quarantine orders to all people (including Hong Kong residents, Mainland residents and visitors from other places) entering Hong Kong from the Mainland and people who have been to the Mainland in the past 14 days preceding arrival at Hong Kong (even if they enter Hong Kong via other places). People under quarantine should stay at home or the dwelling places for a 14-day compulsory quarantine. Health officers and police officers are both authorised to enforce the Regulation.

To strengthen the surveillance work on persons under compulsory quarantine, officers of the CSD, C&ED, the FSD and the ImmD will assist in spot checks on these people. During spot checks, the officers will wear their uniform or a vest of their respective departments and produce their warrant cards as an identity proof.

Apart from conducting spot checks, the Government has various measures in place to monitor whether persons under quarantine are complying with the quarantine order. The Office of the Government Chief Information Officer can make use of a location-sharing function of communication software and video calls to monitor the location of those under compulsory quarantine. The DH also makes telephone calls to persons under quarantine to ensure that they are staying at their dwelling places.

All persons under quarantine must strictly comply with the quarantine order. The Government will demand anyone not staying at their place of quarantine at all times to either wear an electronic wristband or be transferred to a quarantine camp depending on the circumstances. The Government may consider prosecuting persons who do not comply with the quarantine order. People contravening the quarantine requirement are subject to a maximum penalty of imprisonment for six months and a fine of \$25,000 upon conviction.

Continuation of special arrangements for LegCo Secretariat

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

In view of the latest situation of novel coronavirus outbreak, the Legislative Council (LegCo) Secretariat announced today (February 14) that the following special arrangements will be implemented when meetings of LegCo and its Committees are held:

- (a) a maximum of five members of the public will be admitted to observe each of the meeting with a view to reducing the number of attendees at the Public Galleries of the Chamber and Conference Rooms;
- (b) Members' Entrance 2 will be opened from 7am to 30 minutes after the end of the last meeting on the days when meetings are held. Members' Entrance 2 will be closed on the days when no meeting is held; and
- (c) all attendees of the meetings are strongly advised to wear a surgical mask.

Meanwhile, the Secretariat will continue to implement the following disease prevention measures and special arrangements in order to minimise the risks of the spread of disease in the community:

- (a) all public services in the LegCo Complex, including the Public Complaints Office, Library and Archives will remain suspended. Secretariat staff will work from home, except those who provide support services to the meetings of LegCo and its Committees, maintain basic operation of the Secretariat and who are on essential duties;
- (b) the Complex will be closed from 8pm each day to 7am the following day. All Complex users must leave by 8pm;
- (c) persons who have visited the Mainland or arrived Hong Kong from the Mainland in the past 14 days are strongly advised not to enter the Complex;
- (d) all persons entering the Complex (including Members, public officers, Members' visitors, Members' staff, Secretariat staff, contractors' staff, media representatives as well as persons who attend or observe meetings) will be subject to body temperature screening. The Secretariat may deny entry to the Complex of any persons who refuse to undergo body temperature screening or whose body temperature is higher than 37.5 degrees Celsius; and
- (e) the Footbridge Entrance will remain closed.

The aforementioned measures will be implemented until next Sunday (February 23). The Secretariat will review these measures and make further announcements in due course.