

# Effective Exchange Rate Index

The effective exchange rate index for the Hong Kong dollar on Thursday, February 6, 2020 is 106.8 (down 0.2 against yesterday's index).

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## Land-based cross-boundary special transport arrangements

In view of the preventive measures against novel coronavirus involving further reducing the cross-boundary passenger flow between Hong Kong and the Mainland announced by the Government yesterday (February 5), a spokesman for the Transport Department (TD) today (February 6) said that with effect from February 8 (Saturday), the public transport services for Shenzhen Bay Port (SBP) and the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge Hong Kong Port (HZMB HKP) will be adjusted as follows:

### A. Shenzhen Bay Port

#### (i) Local public transport services

Regarding the local public transport serving SBP, the services of New Lantao Bus (NLB) route No. B2X (Tin Yiu Estate – SBP); Citybus routes No. B3 (Tuen Mun Pier Head – SBP), No. B3A (Shan King Estate – SBP) and No. B3M (Tuen Mun Station – SBP(Circular)); and New Territories green minibus (GMB) route No. 618 (Tin Yan Estate – SBP) will be suspended.

Furthermore, NLB routes No. B2 (Yuen Long Station – SBP) and No. B2P (Tin Tsz Estate – SBP) and Citybus route No. B3X (Tuen Mun Town Centre – SBP) will continue to provide services while the service levels will be reduced to a 30-minute headway.

#### (ii) Cross-boundary coach services

Cross-boundary coaches using SBP will suspend services. Members of the public may use the public transport modes (including franchised bus and taxi) still in service to travel to and from the control point if necessary. Passengers can enquire about the service details from the operators concerned.

### B. Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge Hong Kong Port

#### (i) Local public transport services

Regarding the local public transport serving the HZMB HKP, the operating

hours of NLB routes No. B4 (Hong Kong International Airport (Terminal Building) – HZMB HKP(Circular)) and No. B6 (Mun Tung Estate – HZMB HKP) will be reduced to run between 7am and 11pm daily while the headway of these two routes will be reduced to 60 minutes. The headway of Citybus route No. B5 (HZMB HKP – Sunny Bay Public Transport Interchange) will be reduced to 45 minutes. Furthermore, GMB route No. 901 (Ying Tung Estate – HZMB HKP(Circular)) will be suspended.

(ii) Cross-boundary coach services

The cross-boundary coach services plying between Guangdong and Hong Kong will be suspended. Limited services will be maintained for the services travelling between Hong Kong and Macao. Passengers can enquire about the service details from the operators concerned.

In addition, the shuttle bus services (Gold Bus) (for the HZMB HKP only) at the HZMB HKP will also maintain limited services. The headways of the Macao route and the Zhuhai route will be adjusted to approximately 30 to 60 minutes and approximately 60 minutes respectively, subject to further service adjustments according to passenger demand.

The TD will closely monitor the public transport services serving the two control points after the service adjustments. The TD will also maintain close liaison with the operators concerned for necessary adjustments to cater for passenger demand. Passengers should pay attention to the Government's latest announcements of cross-boundary transport news.

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## [DH alerts public on deceptive email and website](#)

The Department of Health (DH) today (February 6) appealed to members of the public to beware of a deceptive email sent out in the name of the DH. The email (address: Department of Health<[donate@dhraising.com](mailto:donate@dhraising.com)>) appealed to the public to donate \$100 to support the development of a vaccine related to the novel coronavirus infection. The DH clarified that no such email has been issued by the DH.

Acting upon a notification, the DH noted that a website with the domain name [www.dh.gov.hk/donate/coronavirus-2020](http://www.dh.gov.hk/donate/coronavirus-2020) was also included in the email. This website is not an official site of the DH.

The DH 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

concerned, or has conducted any financial transactions through the website, should contact the Police.

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## [Multi-pronged approach in procuring masks and protective items](#)

In order to combat the novel coronavirus infection, the Government Logistics Department (GLD) has been exercising maximum flexibility to procure directly from suppliers through different channels and means in order to secure the supply of masks and other protective items promptly to meet the urgent needs of government departments. Through referrals from government bureaux/departments (including the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices) and also individuals, the GLD has already been actively contacting suppliers in different countries to procure the masks and necessary protective items globally. To supplement the above efforts, the GLD has also arranged an open tender to explore more sources of supplies for the procurement of masks. However, the supply of all kinds of protective items, especially masks, is very stringent at the moment. Some jurisdictions have implemented export controls on these items. This has made the GLD's procurement work even more challenging. Nevertheless, the GLD will continue to endeavour to procure all necessary items through all possible means.

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## [Hongkong Post clarification](#)

In response to concerns expressed on social media last night (February 5) regarding the handling of mail items containing surgical masks by the Air Mail Centre (AMC), Hongkong Post replied on the same day and clarifies the concern as follows:

Since the end of the Lunar New Year holidays, the AMC has prioritised the handling of Speedpost items containing surgical masks. As such there is no backlog of these items pending delivery. Up to now, Hongkong Post has handled and delivered about 10 000 such items.

All inbound mail forwarded to the AMC after inspection by the Customs and Excise Department will be processed immediately and delivered according to the addresses indicated, without any need to obtain further approval from Hongkong Post for their dispatch. Hongkong Post will continue to uphold the principle of according a higher priority for surgical masks and arrange for their delivery in the first instance.

Members of the public with mail details such as item numbers may visit the Hongkong Post website ([www.hongkongpost.hk](http://www.hongkongpost.hk)) or call the Hongkong Post Enquiry Hotline at 2921 2211 for any enquiries.