

# Transport Department announces special arrangements of cross-boundary transport services

The Transport Department (TD) announced today (February 3) the following special arrangements of the cross-boundary transport services.

## Cross-boundary railway service

The last departures for today on East Rail Line plying to/from Lo Wu/Lok Ma Chau Stations will not be affected. With effect from the first departure tomorrow (February 4), Lo Wu and Lok Ma Chau Stations will be temporarily closed, and the train service of East Rail Line will be maintained between Hung Hom and Shueng Shui Stations. MTR Corporation will also provide shuttle train service with headway of 30 minutes plying between Sheung Shui and Lo Wu Stations to serve residents in Lo Wu.

In view of the temporary closure of Lo Wu and Lok Ma Chau Stations, the service of KMB route No B1 (Tin Tsz Estate – Lok Ma Chau Station) and Green Minibus (GMB) route No 75 (Yuen Long (Fook Hong Street)/ San Tin – Lok Ma Chau Public Transport Interchange) will be suspended. The short-working service of GMB route No 75 (Yuen Long (Fook Hong Street) – Ha Wan Tsuen) will remain in service.

## Land-based cross-boundary transport services

Due to the suspension of immigration clearance service for passenger at Lok Ma Chau Control Point with effect from the midnight of February 4, the long-haul and short-haul cross-boundary coach and shuttle bus (Yellow Bus) services using this control point will be suspended at the same time. Besides, cross boundary private cars and hire cars also cannot use this control point.

In view of the above arrangement, the service of GMB route No 44B (Tuen Mun Station – Lok Ma Chau (San Tin) Public Transport Interchange), No 44B1 (Tuen Mun Ferry Pier – Lok Ma Chau (San Tin) Public Transport Interchange/ Lok Ma Chau Control Point), No 79S (Tin Shui Wai (Grandeur Terrace)) – Lok Ma Chau Control Point) and No 616S (Mong Kok – Lok Ma Chau Control Point) will be suspended. In addition, GMB route No 78 (Pak Heung Road – Lok Ma Chau Control Point), which is extended to Lok Ma Chau Control Point after 10.30 pm daily, will be truncated not observing Lok Ma Chau Control Point and terminated at Lok Ma Chau (San Tin) Public Transport Interchange.

Cross-boundary coach, shuttles bus (Gold Bus) (for Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge Hong Kong Port only) and local public transport serving the Shenzhen Bay Port and the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge Hong Kong Port will continue to operate and the service level will be suitably adjusted. Passengers should pay attention to the Government's latest announcements

about the cross boundary transport news and approach the operators concerned to enquire the detailed service arrangement.

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## Update on cases of novel coronavirus infection

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health (DH) announced that as of 8pm today (February 3), no new case of novel coronavirus infection is recorded and the number of confirmed cases so far in Hong Kong remained at 15. The public is strongly urged to maintain strict personal, food and environmental hygiene both locally and during travel.

The CHP's epidemiological investigations and relevant contact tracing on the confirmed cases are ongoing. It is also closely monitoring and following up on the contact tracing of relevant confirmed cases in the Mainland and overseas. The CHP today received notification of a confirmed case in Shenzhen involving a female patient who stayed in Reliance Westin Guest House, Mirador Mansion, 58 Nathan Road, Tsim Sha Tsui from January 27 to February 1. Those who had visited the guesthouse during the above period are urged to call the hotline.

Quarantine will be arranged for close contacts while medical surveillance will be arranged for other contacts. For the progress on the contact tracing of the cases, please see annex.

The CHP has set up a hotline (2125 1122) for the cases, which operates from 8am to 9pm daily to answer public enquiries. As at 4pm today, a total of 2 929 calls were received.

A dedicated webpage ([www.chp.gov.hk/en/features/102465.html](http://www.chp.gov.hk/en/features/102465.html)) has been set up by the CHP. Information including the latest local situation, list of buildings and list of flights/trains/ships relevant to the confirmed cases, countries/areas with reported cases as well as health advice are uploaded onto the webpage to help the public grasp the latest updates.

A spokesman for the CHP said, "The CHP will continue to maintain its liaison with the National Health Commission, World Health Organization and the relevant health authorities, and closely monitor the situation for risk assessment."

Hong Kong residents returning from the Mainland should take note of the following health advice:

- Members of the public returning to Hong Kong from the Mainland should stay home as far as possible if circumstances allow. Those who need to go out

should wear a surgical mask for 14 days after returning to Hong Kong;

- Hong Kong residents who have visited Hubei Province in the past 14 days should wear a surgical mask immediately and approach staff of the DH's Port Health Division upon arrival. They will be quarantined for observation after a health assessment.
- Hong Kong residents who had been to Hubei Province in the past 14 days but have already returned to Hong Kong should wear a surgical mask immediately and call the DH hotline for arrangement to be quarantined for observation.

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 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 liter of water into each drain outlet (U-traps) to ensure environmental hygiene;
- 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
- When 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.

The public should take heed of the health advice below when travelling outside Hong Kong:

- Do not travel to Hubei Province where community transmission of novel coronavirus is occurring;
- Avoid close contact with persons with fever or respiratory symptoms in countries/areas with possible community transmission of novel coronavirus infection. If it is unavoidable to come into contact with them, put on a surgical mask and continue to do so until 14 days after returning to Hong Kong;
- Avoid visiting hospitals. If it is necessary to visit a hospital, put on a surgical mask and observe strict personal and hand hygiene;
- Avoid touching animals (including game), poultry/birds or their droppings;
- Avoid visiting wet markets, live poultry markets or farms;
- Avoid making close contact with patients, especially those with symptoms of acute respiratory infections;

- Do not consume game meat and do not patronise food premises where game meat is served;
  - Adhere to food safety and hygiene rules such as avoiding consuming raw or undercooked animal products, including milk, eggs and meat, or foods which may be contaminated by animal secretions, excretions (such as urine) or contaminated products, unless they have been properly cooked, washed or peeled;
  - If feeling unwell when outside Hong Kong, especially if experiencing a fever or cough, wear a surgical mask, inform the hotel staff or tour escort and seek medical advice at once; and
  - After returning to Hong Kong, consult a doctor promptly if experiencing a fever or other symptoms, take the initiative to inform the doctor of any recent travel history and any exposure to animals, and wear a surgical mask to help prevent spread of the disease.
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## Transcript of remarks of press conference

The Chief Executive, Mrs Carrie Lam, held a press conference this afternoon (February 3). Also joining were the Secretary for Security, Mr John Lee; the Secretary for Transport and Housing, Mr Frank Chan Fan; the Secretary for Food and Health, Professor Sophia Chan; the Director of Immigration, Mr Tsang Kwok-wai; the Director of Health, Dr Constance Chan; and the Chief Executive of the Hospital Authority, Dr Tony Ko. Following is the transcript of remarks of the press conference.

Reporter: Forgive me, Mrs Lam, asking you in English. If you could reply in English for my audience it would be great. Can I ask you this? Why haven't you closed all the border crossings? You know, an open border is an open border and the longer it remains open, the greater the danger to the people of Hong Kong. Isn't that the truth of this?

Chief Executive: In answering your question, you have to understand that the situation between Hong Kong and the Mainland of China is almost unique. Over the years we have established a very close relationship. I don't mean the government-to-government relationship, but it is a relationship between the two people, the two economies, the two communities, so there is a huge demand, I suppose a huge legitimate demand, for that sort of cross-border travel. And that's why I'm quoting you figures that there were indeed more Hong Kong people crossing the border almost on a daily basis, and then they have to come back. The purposes as I could understand will include work. I'm sure you have come across people who work in Hong Kong, live in Shenzhen, or who live in Hong Kong and work in Shenzhen, because of the technology industries and so on. And there is also demand for looking after young family. I'm sure you have also heard about we have a large number of children

who have the right of abode in Hong Kong but their mothers do not have that right yet, so they may have to cross the border on a frequent basis to look after their children. And then we have the supply of food and other necessities. Although of course we are keeping the cargo clearance open, there's a lot of logistics involved that require people to cross the border. I can continue to give you examples of this very legitimate and genuine cross-border traffic that we need to handle. Otherwise, we will end up with more troubles for the operation of this city and also for the 7 million population of Hong Kong.

Our strategy is really to consolidate as much as possible the existing control points. Now it's really down to, excluding the airport, only two – one is the Shenzhen Bay, the other is the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge – and the additional benefit of doing that is we are channelling all cross-border traffic into these two cross-border control points. And because of the inconvenience that we have caused to people as a result, the numbers will come down, and I have proven that the numbers have come down. The second merit is we can then concentrate the people, I mean the staff. We can release a rough estimate of about 1,000 civil servants from the other control points to be suspended operation into these two remaining open control points, so they can do much better medical surveillance, enquiries, temperature check and so on, in order to fulfil that same purpose of infection control. This is really a balance that one has to strike, given Hong Kong's very unique situation. But as I said, this is not the end of our strategy or our efforts. We will continue to monitor the situation and take whatever necessary steps to protect Hong Kong from this infection.

Reporter: Mrs Lam, you just said that some of the demands made by the medics that are currently on strike are irrational and I see they have two demands for you: one is to maintain a steady supply of masks to Hong Kong and the second being that to impose a ban for travellers coming into Hong Kong from Mainland regardless of origin. Can you make clear on which part of that is irrational? Second question being that, you said that excluding the airport you will be channelling cross-border traffic within Hong Kong-Mainland into two ports but actually seeing from statistic from the Immigration Department, actually the airport accounted for over 4,000 or over 5,000 travellers from Mainland in the past two days, will that remain a loophole in your measures against the new virus? Will more port health measures be put at the ports that remain open to make sure that people coming in are healthy and fit? Third question being on mask supply, you said that the Government cannot release the masks made by inmates to the public but we have seen reports that it had somehow made it onto the market. Can you explain how these masks produced that are for internal consumption have made their way into the market? Thank you.

Chief Executive: I answer the third question first. As I have mentioned, as far as I could gather, the masks produced by the Correctional Services Department under this arrangement of CSI should be for government use. Whether government use also includes some public sector use I have yet to find out, but they should not be sold in the market because they have very stringent requirements, the S for S (Secretary for Security) could also

supplement. I couldn't explain why they have gone into the market because this is an anomaly, so we have to find out and investigate if need be. That is my simple answer.

The second question about airport; airport of course is a very important control point, and airport services not only travellers from Mainland but from all over the world, and it is very important for Hong Kong to keep the Hong Kong International Airport open for both passengers and cargo. For the category of Mainland visitors coming in and out at the airport, one has to differentiate between those coming from abroad. They are not coming from an infected area per se, they are coming from abroad into Hong Kong, so this group should be of no difference to other international travellers coming into the Hong Kong International Airport. But we still have obligations to ensure the safety that you have mentioned. At the airport it is really a very important control point that we have introduced the more stringent measures at the very beginning, including the latest arrangement based on the WHO advice to do exit screening because normally the health authority is less concerned about exit, they're more concerned about entry. But on this occasion because of our airport and the international connectivity, we have been doing exit screening for passengers leaving Hong Kong at the Hong Kong International Airport. If there are mainlanders coming by plane to the Hong Kong International Airport, without even a very explicit policy, I'm sure the numbers will come down because the frequency of the flights is coming down significantly. Last time when I shared with you what we were doing, I said that the Secretary for Transport and Housing has been liaising with the airlines and the authorities and then the target was perhaps to halve the flights per week between Hong Kong and Mainland. I'm sure Frank would say the latest development because of different things happening that this frequency may be further reduced. I answer the first question and then invite the Secretary for Transport and Housing to say something about aviation.

As far as the union in the Hospital Authority starting their five-day strike today, they have several demands. That's why I said if you look through the objectives of what they want to do, we are not so different. The objective is to protect Hong Kong and to lessen as much as possible the workload at the Hospital Authority and the chances of being infected. If you ask me to comment individually on their demands, I have no problem with their request that we should try to ensure a stable supply. We have been doing it for quite some time but I'm explaining to you the difficulties because there is a global demand for these protective gear and equipment. We are doing a worldwide search. We are calling up even individual suppliers and industrialists who have plants all over the world to see whether they could help to give Hong Kong a needed supply. And I can assure you that money is not an issue. We are not asking for competitive tendering. Whoever has a supply, as long as it fulfils the specifications according to the Department of Health and they can be sent to Hong Kong, there will be direct purchases by the Government Logistics Department. But the difficulties are very real, so while on one hand I accept and admit the need to ensure a stable supply, that is not something that I could promise without conditions because they are not locally produced. They have to come from overseas.

Finally this demand in their list of demands is about a complete closure of the borders I have just explained to John, so it's the same answer. As far as a ban on travellers from Mainland, you have been given some of the figures. In terms of numbers, and by the way, when it comes to infection control, when it comes to a virus, there is no boundary, so you cannot differentiate that people of a certain race, of a certain nationality, of a certain residential status or holding a certain travel document are more prone to infection than other people. So we have to treat them equally as long as these people cross the border from an infected area, say from Mainland, they have the same risk, so we treat them similarly. And in terms of numbers of people, the Hong Kong people returning to Hong Kong or arriving in our control points, the number is much bigger than just talking about mainlanders or other travellers, like Americans, Japanese or French, so the question is by consolidating the control points, making it very inconvenient for people to cross the border, we hope and we have demonstrated that it will bring down the numbers, but I do not rule out further measures as the situation evolves.

Secretary for Transport and Housing: As we have explained to the Consulate General assembly yesterday, as a member of the global community, flight connection between cities is a very important link for people to travel from one country to another. Therefore, the Hong Kong International Airport (and us) have done everything we can. For example, for all (Mainland) passengers arriving at the Hong Kong International Airport, they would have to go through the health declaration process. They would have to go through the thermal screening to see whether they are fit to be admitted into Hong Kong. For passengers going overseas, they would have passed through the thermal exit screening as well, including those taking transit at the Hong Kong International Airport, whether they are coming from overseas to the Mainland or from the Mainland to overseas countries.

As one of the busiest airports across the globe, we have to discharge our responsibility as a dependable and trustworthy international airport. So we have put into place all kinds of scanning tools including hand-held equipment so that every passenger departing Hong Kong would have been scanned individually, making sure that everyone is safe and sound to travel.

As you would have noticed, there was a ban from Vietnam to suspend flights between Vietnam and Hong Kong. But after our explanation to them, informing them of the mechanism, procedures and robustness of our screening processes, they finally allowed flights to resume. We are also talking with the Italian government with respect to the passenger flight ban. I talked to the Consulate General yesterday and he promised to write back to the Italian government, explaining to them the kind of measures we have adopted in Hong Kong. I hope they would give us the green light to go ahead in the near future. I think I have explained enough why we have to maintain the international transport for Hong Kong people, overseas visitors and for anyone who travels in and out of Hong Kong and transiting in Hong Kong. Thank you.

(Please also refer to the Chinese portion of the transcript.)

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## Quarantine arrangements in response to novel coronavirus infection (with photo)

In accordance with the Preparedness and Response Plan for Novel Infectious Disease of Public Health Significance (2020), the Government has formulated a comprehensive prevention and control strategy as well as mandatory quarantine measures, including setting up of quarantine centres and implementation of mandatory home quarantine measures, with a view to strengthening prevention and reducing the risk of spreading of the novel coronavirus.

The Food and Health Bureau, the Department of Health (DH) and the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer held a press conference today (February 3) to explain the relevant arrangements.

According to the prevailing measures, patients suspected to be infected by the novel coronavirus will be admitted to hospitals for isolation and treatment. The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the DH requires close contacts with the confirmed cases who do not have symptoms to be put under mandatory quarantine.

Whether being arranged to stay at quarantine centres or to be put under mandatory home quarantine, they are not confirmed or suspected cases. They are close contacts of confirmed cases or those have been to Hubei Province in the past 14 days and without any symptoms.

In spite of this, the arrangement of quarantine centres and home quarantine can effectively monitor health condition of those under quarantine. They can be transferred to hospitals for isolation and treatment as soon as possible if they develop the relevant symptoms. This arrangement can help prevent spreading of infectious diseases.

A spokesman for the Government stressed that in order to prevent the transmission of the disease in the community with a view to achieving the highest effectiveness of the mandatory quarantine measures, the co-operation of the whole community is indispensable. The arrangement not only protects those under quarantine, but to safeguard everybody's health. Thus, it is hoped that the whole community can fight the disease together.

### Quarantine centres

Currently, the occupancy of three quarantine centres, namely the MacLehose Holiday Village, the Lei Yue Mun Park and Holiday Village and Po Leung Kuk Jockey Club Pak Tam Chung Holiday Camp, is close to their maximum



capacity. The Government is actively preparing to convert the Jao Tsung-I Academy into the fourth quarantine centre.

The Government will increase quarantine facilities as soon as possible and is looking for existing sites suitable for quarantine purposes, including construction of about 300 mobile units of modular housing at the three quarantine centres in use currently and in Sai Kung Outdoor Recreation Centre. The first batch of around 100 mobile units could be used in mid-March the earliest.

When searching for the sites, the Government has thoroughly considered whether the facilities meet the requirements for a quarantine centre including location, overall facilities, environment and the possible impact to the residents. It will also be ensured that operation of all the quarantine centres meets stringent requirements.

The Government will first use the remaining units of the existing quarantine centres for quarantine of close contacts of confirmed cases without symptoms. Those people who have been to the Hubei Province in the past 14 days and do not have symptoms will be put under mandatory home quarantine. The existing quarantine centres will also reserve units for those in need of home quarantine but not suitable to stay at home.

#### Arrangement of mandatory home quarantine

Only people without symptoms will be arranged to conduct mandatory quarantine at home. In addition to providing relevant health information to people under quarantine, the Government also offers guidance on cleaning and sterilisation for property management companies. A list of buildings where people under quarantine reside is available at DH's dedicated website ([www.chp.gov.hk/en/features/102465.html](http://www.chp.gov.hk/en/features/102465.html)).

According to the Prevention and Control of Disease Regulation, people under quarantine must remain staying at home at all times. Any person concerned who leave home without permission may commit a criminal offence, and is subject to a maximum penalty of \$5,000 and imprisonment of six months on conviction. Strict enforcement action will be taken.

To ensure that they stay at home for quarantine, the Government will use electronic wristbands to monitor the location of those people under quarantine. No personal data will be involved.

During the quarantine period, CHP staff will visit and contact via phone the people under quarantine and provide them with health advice. They are reminded to maintain good personal and environmental hygiene including covering the toilet seat before flushing as well as regularly pouring water into each drain outlet (U-traps), etc. They are required to check body temperature twice a day and record physical condition.

The CHP will provide people under quarantine with a dedicated 24-hour hotline. They should contact healthcare personnel via the hotline if they

have fever or develop other symptoms. They will be sent to the hospital immediately after assessment.

During the quarantine period, various government departments will regularly render necessary assistance to those under quarantine.

A dedicated webpage ([www.chp.gov.hk/en/features/102465.html](http://www.chp.gov.hk/en/features/102465.html)) has been set up by the CHP to provide relevant information and health advice on Severe Respiratory Disease associated with a Novel Infectious Agent. Information of the latest notifications received from the Mainland and overseas will be updated to the CHP website ([www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/statistics\\_of\\_the\\_cases\\_novel\\_coronavirus\\_infection\\_en.pdf](http://www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/statistics_of_the_cases_novel_coronavirus_infection_en.pdf)) daily at 9am and 6pm to help the public grasp information on the affected countries/areas.



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## **Updated arrangement for non-emergency services of the Hong Kong Police Force**

As a continuous effort to serve members of the public, the Hong Kong Police Force has fully or partially resumed the following non-emergency services. For details, please visit the respective websites.

1. Sexual Conviction Record Check (SCRC)  
[https://www.police.gov.hk/ppp\\_en/11\\_useful\\_info/scrc.html](https://www.police.gov.hk/ppp_en/11_useful_info/scrc.html)
2. Application for Certificate of No Criminal Conviction (CNCC)  
[https://www.police.gov.hk/.../11\\_useful\\_in.../cert\\_no\\_crime.html](https://www.police.gov.hk/.../11_useful_in.../cert_no_crime.html)
3. Data Access Request for Criminal Conviction Data (CCD)  
[https://www.police.gov.hk/ppp\\_en/11\\_useful\\_info/ccd.html](https://www.police.gov.hk/ppp_en/11_useful_info/ccd.html)
4. Application for Licences and Permits at the Police Licensing Office  
[https://www.police.gov.hk/ppp\\_en/11\\_useful\\_info/licences/](https://www.police.gov.hk/ppp_en/11_useful_info/licences/)
5. Access to Information about Traffic Conviction and Fixed Penalty  
[https://www.police.gov.hk/ppp\\_en/05\\_traffic\\_matters/](https://www.police.gov.hk/ppp_en/05_traffic_matters/)

## 6. Police Recruitment

[https://www.police.gov.hk/ppp\\_en/15\\_recruit/index.html](https://www.police.gov.hk/ppp_en/15_recruit/index.html)