

## Provision of services in LandsD's offices

In view of the extension of special work arrangement of the Government, the Lands Department (LandsD) today (February 1) announced that arrangement would be made for staff to work from home as far as possible to reduce the risk of spread of novelcorona virus in the community. From February 3 to 9, all LandsD offices would maintain basic public services on limited scale, including provision of services for receipt and delivery of documents at counters and enquiry telephone lines between 1 pm and 5 pm from Monday to Friday during the period. Online services would also be maintained as normal. The public may continue to make enquiries or complaints through internet though it may take a longer time for LandsD to process and reply. Other counter services, including counter enquiry, payment of government rent and premium, map sales counters, collection of compensation for land resumption, deposit of land boundary plans and survey record plans, and inspection of a full list of Authorised Land Surveyors etc, will continue to be suspended.

Appeal is made to the public to minimise visiting LandsD's offices in person for services as far as possible unless necessary. The public can purchase most map products from the HKMS 2.0, pay Government rent and land premium and file enquiries or complaints as well as requests for service through online or other electronic payment means.

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## HKSARG follows up air services between Hong Kong and Vietnam

The Civil Aviation Department received notification from the Civil Aviation Authority of Viet Nam (CAAV) early today (February 1) regarding suspension of air services between Hong Kong and Vietnam with effect today until May 1, a measure implemented by the Government of Viet Nam in response to the latest developments concerning novel coronavirus.

Upon knowing the suspension, the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government contacted the CAAV for follow up and explained the preventive measures implemented at the Hong Kong International Airport (HKIA). The CAAV lifted the suspension tonight.

Passengers are reminded to check with their airlines for the latest flight information and confirm the flights before heading to the airport. Passengers can also pay attention to the latest flight information through the HKIA's website and "HKG My Flight" mobile app.

Hong Kong residents outside Hong Kong who need assistance may call the 24-hour hotline operated by the Assistance to Hong Kong Residents Unit of the Immigration Department at (852) 1868.

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## CHP investigates cluster of Legionnaires' disease

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health is today (February 1) investigating a cluster of Legionnaires' disease (LD) cases, involving four 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 four LD cases included:

1. A male patient, aged 66 with underlying illness, who lives in Pak Suet House, Choi Hung Estate, Wong Tai Sin;
2. A male patient, aged 76 with underlying illness, who lives in Pak Suet House, Choi Hung Estate, Wong Tai Sin;
3. A male patient, aged 67 with underlying illness, who lives in Luk Ching House, Choi Hung Estate, Wong Tai Sin; and
4. A male patient, aged 79 with underlying illness, who lives in Kam Shek House, Ping Shek Estate, Kwun Tong.

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

"Epidemiological investigations revealed that the first three patients resided in Choi Hung Estate and had no travel history in the incubation period (IP). Officers of the CHP has conducted a site visit at Choi Hung Estate and has already collected environmental and water samples. Investigations are ongoing to identify potential sources of infection, if any," a spokesman for the CHP said.

"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 ( $\mu\text{m}$ ) 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  $\mu\text{m}$  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.

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## **Official Receiver's Office provides limited public services starting from February 3**

To align with the special work arrangement announced by the Government on January 31 to reduce the risk of the spread of the novel coronavirus in the community, the Official Receiver's Office (ORO) announced today (February 1) the provision of basic and limited public services to members of the public from February 3 until further notice as follows:

All offices of the ORO will be open between 9.30am and 4pm from Monday to Friday. The waiting/processing time for the services provided by the ORO may be longer as the provision of services will be scaled down.

Given the situation of the novel coronavirus infection, after resumption of limited services of the ORO, members of the public are advised to avoid coming to the offices of the ORO in so far as is possible. They can make use of the electronic services of the ORO and to contact the ORO by:

- (a) telephone (hotline number 2867 2448);
- (b) email (oroadmin@oro.gov.hk); or
- (c) fax (fax number: 3105 1814).

Members of the public who have appointments with this office will be notified of an alternate appointment date as soon as possible.

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## **PlanD maintains provision of basic and limited services to public starting**

## from next week

In light of the extension of special work arrangement for government departments and the latest development of the novel coronavirus infection, the Planning Department (PlanD) announced today (February 1) that starting from next Monday (February 3) until Friday (February 7), its Planning Enquiry Counters on 17/F, North Point Government Offices (NPGO) and 14/F, Sha Tin Government Offices, will maintain provision of basic and limited services to the public, including counter and telephone enquiry services on general planning information, inspection of submitted planning applications and town plans under statutory exhibition, etc.

Meanwhile, the receipt and dispatch counter of the department (on 18/F, NGPO) will also maintain basic services during office hours.

City Gallery will continue to be temporarily closed until further notice. All educational activities and docent services will be cancelled during the closure period.

For enquiries, please call the hotline 2231 5000 during office hours or visit PlanD's website at [www.pland.gov.hk](http://www.pland.gov.hk).