

CHP provides update on latest progress on cluster of pneumonia cases in Wuhan

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health today (January 12) received notification from the National Health Commission (NHC) that it has shared with the World Health Organization (WHO) the genetic sequences of the novel coronavirus associated with the cluster of pneumonia cases detected in Wuhan, Hubei Province. The relevant institutions have also uploaded the genetic sequences onto the online Genbank (GISAID). GISAID is cross checking the information and will publish it upon completion.

The CHP's Public Health Laboratory Services Branch (PHLSB), as one of the users of this Genbank, will obtain the genetic sequence of the novel coronavirus. While the CHP's Public Health Laboratory Services Branch is conducting molecular testing for a number of coronaviruses, it will develop specific tests based on the information of the new sequence.

The CHP will continue to maintain close liaison with the NHC as well as the WHO and closely monitor the latest development of cluster of pneumonia cases in Wuhan.

Red flag hoisted at Silverstrand Beach

Attention TV/radio announcers:

Please broadcast the following as soon as possible:

Here is an item of interest to swimmers.

The Leisure and Cultural Services Department announced today (January 12) that due to big waves, red flag has been hoisted at Silverstrand Beach in Sai Kung District. Beach-goers are advised not to swim at the beach.

Companies Registry releases statistics for 2019

The total number of local companies registered under the Companies Ordinance was 1,380,185 by the end of 2019, down 20,765 from the

corresponding figure of 2018, according to the statistics released by the Companies Registry today (January 12).

In 2019, a total of 124,741 local companies were newly registered with the Registry, among which 47,486 were incorporated online at the e-Registry (www.eregistry.gov.hk) or via the "CR eFiling" mobile application.

The Companies Registry has continued to implement the licensing regime for trust or company service providers and the requirement for companies to maintain beneficial ownership information by keeping a Significant Controllers Register during the year. "The Government's efforts to combat money laundering and terrorist financing had been recognised in the Mutual Evaluation Report of Hong Kong published by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) on September 4, 2019, in which Hong Kong's anti-money laundering and counter-terrorist financing regime was assessed to be compliant and effective overall," the Registrar of Companies, Ms Ada Chung, said.

"Hong Kong is the first jurisdiction in the Asia-Pacific region to have achieved an overall compliant result in the current round of FATF mutual evaluation," Ms Chung added.

For the licensing of trust or company service providers, a total of 824 licences were granted in 2019, and the number of licensees reached 6,839 by the end of 2019.

In 2019, 2,000 non-Hong Kong companies that have newly established a place of business in Hong Kong were registered under the Companies Ordinance, an increase of 67.64 per cent from 1,193 in 2018. The total number of registered non-Hong Kong companies reached 12,494 by the end of 2019, up 12.96 per cent year on year.

The number of charges on assets of companies received for registration in 2019 was 20,221, 8.33 per cent down from 22,058 in 2018. The number of notifications of payments and releases received for registration decreased by 17.41 per cent, from 24,634 in 2018 to 20,345 in 2019.

In 2019, a total of 198 prospectuses were registered, a decrease of 21.12 per cent from 251 in 2018.

The total number of documents delivered for registration in 2019 decreased by 7.01 per cent to 3,340,912, compared to 3,592,892 in 2018.

A total of 5,141,520 searches of document image records were conducted using the Registry's electronic search services in 2019, an increase of 2.59 per cent from 5,011,937 in 2018.

For details of the statistics, please visit the "Statistics" section of the Registry's website (www.cr.gov.hk).

Liquor Licensing Board to meet on Tuesday

The following is issued on behalf of the Liquor Licensing Board:

The Liquor Licensing Board will meet on Tuesday (January 14) to consider an application for new issue of liquor licence.

The application is:

POPOLO NOSTALGIA in Central

The meeting will be held at 9.45am in the conference room, Room 102, 1/F, 258 Queen's Road East, Wan Chai. Members of the public are welcome to attend, except during the private session on confidential items.

Yellow fire danger warning

Attention duty announcers, radio and TV stations:

Yellow fire danger warning

The fire danger situation today (January 12) is yellow and the risk of fire is high. People are urged to prevent fires breaking out and hikers should also be vigilant.