

## Key statistics on service demand of A&E Departments and occupancy rates in public hospitals

The following is issued on behalf of the Hospital Authority:

During the winter surge, the Hospital Authority is closely monitoring the service demand of Accident and Emergency Departments and the occupancy rates in public hospitals. Key service statistics are being issued daily for public information. Details are in the appended table.

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## Temporary suspension of flushing water supply to some premises in Chai Wan and Siu Sai Wan districts

The Water Supplies Department announced today (January 11) that owing to water mains connection works to be carried out at Siu Sai Wan Salt Water Pumping Station, the flushing water supply to some premises in the Chai Wan and Siu Sai Wan districts will be suspended from 7am to 7pm on January 18.

Flushing water supply to the Methodist Church Epworth Village Community Centre, Shan Tsui Court and north of Lok Man Road in Chai Wan will remain normal. There will be weak flushing water supply to the following premises in Siu Sai Wan: Siu Sai Wan Complex, Siu Sai Wan Sports Ground, Cheerful Garden, Fullview Garden, Harmony Garden, Kai Tsui Court, the Chinese Foundation Secondary School, Hon Wah College, Lingnan Hang Yee Memorial Secondary School and Pui Kiu Primary School.

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## Territory-wide flag day today

Hong Kong PHAB Association has been issued a Public Subscription Permit to hold a territory-wide flag sale from 7am to 12.30pm today (January 11), a spokesman for the Social Welfare Department (SWD) said.

For enquiries, please call the SWD's hotline at 2343 2255, or the

designated hotline of the 1823 Call Centre at 3142 2678. Information on flag days is available at the SWD's website ([www.swd.gov.hk/en/index/site\\_whatsnew](http://www.swd.gov.hk/en/index/site_whatsnew)) and the GovHK portal ([www.gov.hk/en/theme/fundraising/search](http://www.gov.hk/en/theme/fundraising/search)). Permits for flag days containing contact information of the flag-selling organisations and information on the approved flag-selling activities have also been uploaded to the SWD's website ([www.swd.gov.hk/en/index/site\\_pubsvc/page\\_controlofc/sub\\_recentlyap](http://www.swd.gov.hk/en/index/site_pubsvc/page_controlofc/sub_recentlyap)). For enquiries about the detailed flag-selling arrangements, please contact the individual flag-selling organisations.

Details of the charitable fund-raising activities covered by the Public Subscription Permit issued by the SWD have also been uploaded to the GovHK website ([www.gov.hk/fundraising](http://www.gov.hk/fundraising)).

If any flag day activity is suspected to be fraudulent, people should not make any donation and should immediately report the matter to the Police, the spokesman added.

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## **HKCH announces on a case of human infection of rat Hepatitis E virus**

The following is issued on behalf of the Hospital Authority:

Regarding a patient infected with rat Hepatitis E Virus, the spokesperson for Hong Kong Children's Hospital (HKCH) made the following announcement today (January 10):

HKCH reported to the Centre for Health Protection that a patient's blood specimens were tested positive for rat Hepatitis E Virus. The concerned patient was admitted to the hospital in August 2019 and succumbed on December 27.

As the patient had been admitted to the hospital during the incubation period, the hospital will support the Centre for Health Protection in the epidemiological investigation. The hospital will also explore to refer the case to the coroner for follow up.

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# Government responds to enquiries on National Anthem Bill

In response to media enquiries on the National Anthem Bill, a spokesman for the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government said today (January 10) that it is the constitutional responsibility of the HKSAR Government to implement the Law of the People's Republic of China on National Anthem (National Anthem Law) locally. In implementing the National Anthem Law by local legislation, the Government has given full consideration to Hong Kong's common law system and actual circumstances. The main spirit of the National Anthem Bill (the Bill) is "respect", which bears absolutely no relations to "restricting freedom of speech" as claimed by certain members of the community and definitely not a so-called "evil law".

The spokesman said, "The Standing Committee of the 12th National People's Congress adopted the decision to add the National Anthem Law to Annex III to the Basic Law on November 4, 2017. In accordance with Article 18 of the Basic Law, the national laws listed in Annex III to the Basic Law shall be applied locally by way of promulgation or legislation by the HKSAR. It is thus the constitutional responsibility of the HKSAR Government to implement the National Anthem Law locally.

"Having regard to Hong Kong's common law system and the actual circumstances in Hong Kong, the HKSAR Government decided to implement the National Anthem Law in Hong Kong by local legislation. This approach fully reflects the spirit of 'one country, two systems'.

"The legislative principle of the National Anthem Bill is clear, i.e. to fully reflect the legislative purpose and intent of the National Anthem Law, which is to preserve the dignity of the national anthem so that members of the community would respect the national anthem, whilst taking into account Hong Kong's common law system and actual circumstances.

"During the drafting of the Bill, we have consulted the Legislative Council (LegCo) Panel on Constitutional Affairs, and attended two special panel meetings lasting for a total of about 15 hours, during which we have listened to the views from 190 members of the public and representatives of various organisations. We have also met with different political parties, professional groups, representatives from the legal sector and the academia to listen to and adopt their views.

"The Bill was introduced to the LegCo last January for First and Second Reading. The relevant Bills Committee has subsequently convened 17 meetings and used over 50 hours to scrutinise the Bill in a clause-by-clause manner. Also, members of the public were invited to express their views at one of these meetings. In the process, the Government has listened attentively to the views of members of the Bills Committee and the public."

The spokesman emphasised that the drafting of the Bill had undergone stringent procedures during which views from various sectors of the community were gauged and adopted. The HKSAR Government will introduce the Bill to the LegCo for resuming Second Reading debate at an appropriate time.