

Hospital Authority suspends use of two external medical gels

The following is issued on behalf of the Hospital Authority:

Following the previous detection of Burkholderia cepacia complex in a medical gel for external use, the Hospital Authority (HA) has detected another brand of medical gel containing the bacteria concerned. All public hospitals have subsequently been informed to suspend use of the two brands of medical gel.

The HA spokesperson said the medical gels were mainly used in ultrasound examination procedures. Upon receiving a report from Queen Mary Hospital (QMH) last week that Burkholderia cepacia complex was detected in the blood specimen of a patient who had used the medical gel concerned, the HA Central Committee on Infectious Diseases and Emergency Response held an ad hoc meeting and informed healthcare workers to suspend use of the product concerned immediately. The HA also proactively collected and tested medical gel samples from public hospitals. A sample of a medical gel was then confirmed as containing Burkholderia cepacia complex in testing. The HA today (November 25) informed all public hospitals to suspend use of the two brands of medical gel and arranged for available alternatives from other manufacturers. No HA service has been affected.

Including the previous case reported by QMH, a total of four patient blood specimens have been found containing Burkholderia cepacia complex, of which two were from QMH and the others were from Tuen Mun Hospital. Following review by microbiologists, all cases except for that of the QMH patient, which was confirmed as a clinical infection case, were classified as specimen contamination. The clinical conditions and treatment of all patients were unaffected.

"The HA has reported the situation to the Department of Health and will continue follow up with the updated situation with the DH and the manufacturer," the HA spokesperson added.

LegCo continues to consider Judicial Officers (Extension of Retirement Age) (Amendment) Bill 2019

The following is issued on behalf of the Legislative Council Secretariat:

The Legislative Council (LegCo) will hold a meeting on Wednesday (November 27) at 11am in the Chamber of the LegCo Complex. During the meeting, the proceedings of the committee of the whole Council on the Judicial Officers (Extension of Retirement Age) (Amendment) Bill 2019 will resume. After the committee of the whole Council has completed consideration of the Bill and its report is adopted by the Council, the Bill will be set down for the Third Reading.

The Second Reading debate on the Electoral Legislation (Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill 2019 will also resume. If the Bill is supported by Members and receive its Second Reading, it will stand committed to the committee of the whole Council. After the committee of the whole Council has completed consideration of the Bill and its report is adopted by the Council, the Bill will be set down for the Third Reading.

The Copyright (Amendment) Bill 2019 and the Road Traffic Legislation (Parking Spaces) (Amendment) Bill 2019 will be introduced into the Council for the First Reading and the Second Reading. The Second Reading debate on the Bills will be adjourned. On Member's Bill, the St. John's College (Amendment) Bill 2019 will be introduced into the Council for the First Reading and the Second Reading. The Second Reading debate on the Bill will be adjourned.

On Government motions, the Chief Secretary for Administration will move two proposed resolutions under Article 73(7) of the Basic Law and section 7A of the Hong Kong Court of Final Appeal Ordinance on appointment of judges. The motions are set out in Appendices 1 and 2.

On Members' motions, Mr Steven Ho, Mr Frankie Yick and Dr Lo Wai-kwok will move separate proposed resolutions under section 34(4) of the Interpretation and General Clauses Ordinance to extend the period for amending the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (Toothfish Catch Documentation Scheme) Regulation, the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (Port Inspection and Control) Regulation, the Administrative Appeals Board Ordinance (Amendment of Schedule) (No. 2) Order 2019, the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources Ordinance (Commencement) Notice, the Merchant Shipping (Local Vessels) (Safety and Survey) (Amendment) Regulation 2019, the Merchant Shipping (Local Vessels) (General) (Amendment) (No. 3) Regulation 2019 and the Antiquities and Monuments (Declaration of Monuments and Historical Buildings) (Consolidation) (Amendment) Notice 2019, laid on the table of the Council on October 30 2019, to the meeting of December 18, 2019. The proposed resolutions are set out in Appendices 3-5 respectively.

Ms Elizabeth Quat will also move a proposed resolution under section 37B(4) of the Air Pollution Control Ordinance to extend the period for amending the Eighth Technical Memorandum for Allocation of Emission Allowances in Respect of Specified Licences, laid on the table of the Council on October 30, 2019, to the meeting of December 18, 2019. The proposed resolution is set out in Appendix 6.

Meanwhile, Members will debate a motion under Article 73(9) of the Basic Law to form an independent investigation committee to investigate the charges against the Chief Executive for serious breach of law and/or dereliction of duty. The motion, jointly initiated by Mr Alvin Yeung, Mr James To, Mr Leung Yiu-chung, Professor Joseph Lee, Ms Claudia Mo, Mr Wu Chi-wai, Mr Charles Peter Mok, Mr Chan Chi-chuen, Mr Kenneth Leung, Dr Kwok Ka-ki, Mr Dennis Kwok, Dr Fernando Cheung, Dr Helena Wong, Mr Ip Kin-yuen, Mr Andrew Wan, Mr Chu Hoi-dick, Mr Lam Cheuk-ting, Mr Shiu Ka-chun, Ms Tanya Chan, Mr Hui Chi-fung, Dr Cheng Chung-tai, Mr Kwong Chun-yu, Mr Jeremy Tam, Mr Gary Fan and Mr Au Nok-hin (25 Members), is to be moved by Mr Alvin Yeung. The motion is set out in Appendix 7.

Mr Wong Ting-kwong and Mr Wong Kwok-kin will move separate motions under Rule 49B(1) of the Rules of Procedure to relieve Ms Tanya Chan and Mr Shiu Ka-chun of their duties as Members of the Legislative Council. The motions are set out in Appendices 8 and 9 respectively.

Dr Kwok Ka-ki and Ms Claudia Mo will move separate motions under Rule 49B(1A) of the Rules of Procedure to censure Mr Junius Ho. The motions are set out in Appendices 10 and 11 respectively.

Ms Yung Hoi-yan and Mr Junius Ho will also move separate motions under Rule 49B(1A) of the Rules of Procedure to censure Dr Cheng Chung-tai and Mr Lam Cheuk-ting. The motions are set out in Appendices 12 and 13 respectively.

Mr Dennis Kwok, Mr Alvin Yeung, Dr Kwok Ka-ki and Dr Fernando Cheung will move separate motions under Article 73(5) and (10) of the Basic Law to summon persons concerned to produce papers and testify. The motions are set out in Appendices 14-18 respectively.

Dr Kwok Ka-ki will also move a motion under Article 73(5) and (10) of the Basic Law to summon a person to produce papers and testify. The motion is set out in Appendix 19.

Mr Au Nok-hin, Mr Andrew Wan, Mr Jeremy Tam, Ms Claudia Mo, Ms Tanya Chan, Dr Kwok Ka-ki, Mr Lam Cheuk-ting, Mr Kwong Chun-yu, Mr Gary Fan, Mr Chung Kwok-pan and Dr Priscilla Leung will move separate motions under the Legislative Council (Powers and Privileges) Ordinance to appoint select committees to conduct inquiries. The motions are set out in Appendices 20-32 respectively. Mr James To will move an amendment to Dr Priscilla Leung's motion.

Meanwhile, Mr Dennis Kwok will move a motion on no confidence in the Fifth Term Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region as set out in Appendix 33. Ms Claudia Mo will move an amendment to Mr Dennis Kwok's motion.

Mr Ho Kai-ming will move a motion on ensuring children's right to play for them to grow up happily. The motion is set out in Appendix 34. Mr Ip Kin-yuen, Dr Kwok Ka-ki, Dr Fernando Cheung, Dr Chiang Lai-wan and Mr Hui

Chi-fung will move separate amendments to Mr Ho Kai-ming's motion.

During the meeting, Members will also ask the Government 22 questions on various policy areas, six of which require oral replies.

The agenda of the above meeting can be obtained via the LegCo Website (<http://www.legco.gov.hk>). Please note that the agenda is subject to change, and the latest information about the agenda could be found on the LegCo Website.

Members of the public are welcome to observe the proceedings of the meeting from the public galleries of the Chamber of the LegCo Complex. They may reserve seats by calling 3919 3399 during office hours. Members of the public can also watch or listen to the meeting via the Webcast system on the LegCo Website.

[DH reports incident of loss of patient data](#)

The Department of Health (DH) announced today (November 25) that a record book containing personal data of 21 patients and treatment cards of two of the patients of Cheung Chau Chest Clinic under the DH was found missing when a staff member carried them from Cheung Chau Chest Clinic to Sai Ying Pun Chest Clinic on November 22 for processing.

The records bear information of the patients who underwent sputum and/or blood examination at Cheung Chau Chest Clinic from January 2018 to November 2019, including their names, Hong Kong identity card numbers and contact telephone numbers.

While ongoing efforts are being made to locate the documents concerned, the DH has been contacting the affected patients to inform them of the incident. The DH has also set up a hotline (2859 8310) for patient enquiries during office hours.

The DH has reported the incident to the Police and will make a report to the Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data.

"We extend apologies to the patients affected for the inconvenience caused. The DH is very concerned about the incident and will conduct a thorough investigation with a view to avoiding recurrence of similar incidents. We have also stepped up efforts in reminding staff members of the importance of protection of personal data and privacy," a DH spokesman said.

CFS urges public not to consume batch of prepackaged Spanish chorizo suspected to be contaminated with Listeria monocytogenes

The Centre for Food Safety (CFS) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department today (November 25) urged the public not to consume a batch of prepackaged chorizo imported from Spain due to possible contamination with *Listeria monocytogenes*, a pathogen. The trade should stop using or selling the batch of the product concerned immediately if they possess it.

Product details are as follows:

Product name: Chorizo Picante
Brand: la alegria
Place of origin: Spain
Net weight: 200 grams per pack
Lot No.: 37, 38 and 39
Best-before date: April 30, 2020

"The CFS received a notification from the Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF) of the European Commission that the above-mentioned batch of the product might have been contaminated with *Listeria monocytogenes* and was being recalled. According to the information provided by the RASFF, a local importer, Gourmet Cuisine Hong Kong Limited, had imported some of the affected batch of the product into Hong Kong," a spokesman for the CFS said.

The CFS immediately contacted the importer concerned for follow-up. Preliminary investigation found that the importer had imported 450 packs of the affected batch of the product, of which 26 packs had been sold while the others were disposed of. The importer has initiated a recall according to the CFS' instructions. Enquiries about the recall can be made to the importer's hotline at 2439 1977 during office hours.

"*Listeria monocytogenes* can be easily destroyed by cooking but can survive and multiply at refrigerator temperature. Most healthy individuals do not develop symptoms or only have mild symptoms like fever, muscle pain, headache, nausea, vomiting or diarrhoea when infected. However, severe complications such as septicaemia, meningitis or even death may occur in newborns, the elderly and those with a weaker immune system. Although infected pregnant women may just experience mild symptoms generally, the infection of *Listeria monocytogenes* may cause miscarriage, infant death, preterm birth, or severe infection in newborns," the spokesman said.

The spokesman urged consumers not to consume the affected batch of the

product if they have bought any. The trade should also stop using or selling the product concerned immediately if they possess it.

The CFS will alert the trade to the incident, and will continue to follow up and take appropriate action. Investigation is ongoing.

[Hong Kong Customs detects two drug trafficking cases worth over \\$30 million at airport in a day \(with photos\)](#)

Hong Kong Customs yesterday (November 24) detected two cross-boundary drug trafficking cases through passenger and cargo channels at Hong Kong International Airport and seized a total of about 42.1 kilograms of suspected methamphetamine, ketamine and cocaine, with an estimated market value of over \$30 million.

Customs officers yesterday inspected two air express parcels from Malaysia transshipping to Japan through Hong Kong. About 28.6kg of suspected methamphetamine were found concealed inside five LED television sets. This is the largest methamphetamine seizure from the air cargo channel in the past three years.

Also, a 27-year-old male passenger and a 26-year-old female passenger arrived in Hong Kong from Brussels, Belgium on the same flight yesterday. Customs officers inspected their checked-in baggage and found a total of about 10.3kg of suspected ketamine and about 3.2kg of suspected cocaine concealed inside false compartments. They were then arrested.

Investigations of both cases are ongoing.

Customs will continue to combat cross-boundary drug trafficking activities through passenger and cargo channels at the airport through strategies of risk-profiling and intelligence analysis.

Under the Dangerous Drugs Ordinance, trafficking in a dangerous drug is a serious offence. The maximum penalty upon conviction is a fine of \$5 million and life imprisonment.

Members of the public may report any suspected drug trafficking activities to Customs' 24-hour hotline 2545 6182 or dedicated crime-reporting email account (crimereport@customs.gov.hk).

