

Queen Elizabeth Hospital closely monitors indoor air quality

The following is issued on behalf of the Hospital Authority:

Subsequent to an incident that occurred in the vicinity of Queen Elizabeth Hospital (QEH), some hospital staff reported discomfort after inhalation of tear gas. The hospital has been closely monitoring the indoor air quality since then.

The hospital has temporarily suspended intake of fresh air for the ventilation system at specific areas, sealed off windows and turned on the indoor air curtains and more to reduce air infiltration. Portable air purifiers have been deployed to individual wards in need.

Beginning today (November 19), the hospital has arranged environmental cleaning, starting with Paediatric and Obstetrics & Gynaecology wards as the priority areas. In addition, the hospital has started replacing the air filters of the ventilation system and the medical compressed air system.

The hospital is maintaining close communication and continuing to provide staff members with necessary support including shuttle bus service and overnight accommodation. The Staff Clinic will provide support to staff feeling discomfort as a result of being affected by tear gas.

The hospital has been closely monitoring the clinical services. Some elective surgeries have been re-arranged due to staff sick leave. The patients concerned have been notified. The traffic disruptions yesterday (November 18) also affected the Non-Emergency Ambulance Transfer Services (NEATS). The NEATS returned to normal this morning. As the hospital wards are still congested, the Fire Service Department has diverted non-emergency patients to nearby hospitals from last night to noon today.

While the Hospital Authority (HA) understands that the incident occurred unexpectedly, it has reflected the concerns of the Authority and staff members towards tear gas via the two-tier communication channel with the Police.

The HA and QEH appreciate the understanding and co-operation from the affected patients and staff members.

Government arranges free ferry services for Hung Hom/Kowloon City and Wan Chai

Due to the damage to the facilities of the Cross-Harbour Tunnel (CHT), the tunnel cannot be reopened within a short period of time. To assist members of the public to commute, the Transport Department (TD) has arranged special free ferry services starting from tomorrow (November 20). The service hours are from 7am to 7pm with a headway of 30 minutes during peak hours. Details of the two routes are as follows:

1. Between Hung Hom (South) Ferry Pier and Wan Chai Public Pier (near Golden Bauhinia Square); and
2. Between Ma Tau Kok Public Pier in Kowloon City and Wan Chai Public Pier (near Golden Bauhinia Square).

To meet the demand and provide passengers with one more option, franchised bus operators will arrange special departures (Route 115) at Kowloon City Ferry Pier Bus Terminus via the Eastern Harbour Crossing (EHC) to Central.

In addition, the TD has co-ordinated with franchised bus operators to strengthen the frequency of bus routes operating via the EHC and the Western Harbour Tunnel (WHC) as appropriate to meet the demand. The following eight routes operating via the CHT will be rerouted to the EHC or the WHC.

Routes via the EHC

- 1) Route 101X: Kwun Tong (Yue Man Square) – Kennedy Town (Central and Western District)
- 2) Route 108: Kai Yip (Kowloon City) – Braemar Hill (Eastern District)
- 3) Route 111: Ping Shek (Kwun Tong) – Central
- 4) Route 115: Kowloon City Ferry Pier (Kowloon City) – Central
- 5) Route 116: Tsz Wan Shan (Wong Tai Sin) – Quarry Bay (Eastern District);
- 6) Route 118: Cheung Sha Wan (Sham Shui Po) – Siu Sai Wan (Eastern District);
- 7) Route 182: Yu Chui Court (Sha Tin) – Central

Route via the WHC

- 8) Route 118P: Cheung Sha Wan (Sham Shui Po) – Siu Sai Wan (Eastern District) (peak-only service)

Details of latest traffic news are available at the TD's website (www.td.gov.hk/tc/home/index.html) or its mobile application "HKeMobility".

Free shuttle services for Kowloon City District discontinued

As the road traffic condition and public transportation services in To Kwa Wan have improved, the Home Affairs Department will discontinue the free shuttle services from To Kwa Wan to Ho Man Tin and Kowloon Bay MTR station tomorrow (November 20).

â€‹The Government will continue to closely monitor the situation. In case of special circumstances, the Government will provide temporary transportation services having regard to needs and the situation so as to facilitate the travel needs of members of the public.

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 tomorrow (November 20) 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 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 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 Frankie Yick, Ms Alice Mak, Mr Cheung Kwok-kwan, Ms Chan Hoi-yan, Mr Steven Ho and Mr Martin Liao will move separate proposed resolutions under section 34(4) of the Interpretation and General Clauses Ordinance to extend the period for amending the Pilotage (Dues) (Amendment) Order 2019, the Pilotage Ordinance (Amendment of Schedule 2) Notice 2019, the Shipping and Port Control (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulation 2019, the Merchant Shipping (Local Vessels) (General) (Amendment) (No.2) Regulation 2019, the Declaration of Geographical Constituencies (Legislative Council) Order 2019, the Electoral Affairs Commission (Electoral Procedure) (Legislative Council) (Amendment) Regulation 2019, the Electoral Affairs Commission (Electoral Procedure) (District Councils) (Amendment) Regulation 2019, the Pharmacy and Poisons (Amendment) (No. 4) Regulation 2019, the Pesticides Ordinance (Amendment of Schedule 2) Notice 2019 and the Solicitor Advocates (Higher Rights of Audience Certificates) Rules (Commencement) Notice, laid on the table of the Council on 23 October 2019, to the meeting of December 11, 2019. The proposed resolutions are set out in Appendices 3-9 respectively.

Mr Frankie Yick will also move two proposed resolutions under section 34(2) of the Interpretation and General Clauses Ordinance to amend the Pilotage (Dues) (Amendment) Order 2019 and the Pilotage Ordinance (Amendment of Schedule 2) Notice 2019, laid on the table of the Council on October 23, 2019. The proposed resolutions are set out in Appendices 10 and 11.

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, Prof Joseph Lee, Ms Claudia Mo, Mr Wu Chi-wai, Mr Charles 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 12.

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 13 and 14 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 15 and 16 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 17 and 18 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 19-23 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 24.

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 and Mr Chung Kwok-pan 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 25-36 respectively.

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 37. 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 38. 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 (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.

CFS finds traces of malachite green in prepackaged grass carp sample

The Centre for Food Safety (CFS) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department today (November 19) announced that a trace amount of malachite

green was found in a prepackaged grass carp sample. A follow-up is in progress.

Product details are as follows:

Product name: Not available in English

Packer: Dairy Farm Company Ltd

Use-by-date: November 7, 2019

A CFS spokesman said, "The CFS collected the abovementioned grass carp sample from a supermarket in To Kwa Wan for testing under its routine Food Surveillance Programme. The test result showed that the sample contained a trace amount of malachite green at a level of 0.78 parts per billion."

The spokesman said that the CFS had informed the vendor concerned of the irregularity and instructed the vendor to stop sale of the affected batch of the product. Should there be sufficient evidence, prosecution will be initiated. The CFS is also tracing the source of the product concerned.

Malachite green is a type of industrial dye and has been used for treating infections in fish. Currently, malachite green has been prohibited for use in food-producing animals in many countries. According to the Harmful Substances in Food Regulations (Cap 132AF), no food sold in Hong Kong is allowed to contain malachite green. Offenders will be prosecuted and will be liable to a fine of \$50,000 and to imprisonment for six months upon conviction.

The CFS will continue to follow up on the incident and take appropriate action. An investigation is ongoing.