

HKMA clarifies rumours on cash withdrawal limit

The following is issued on behalf of the Hong Kong Monetary Authority:

In response to rumours that the Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA) would cap daily cash withdrawal from banks, the HKMA today (November 11) reiterates that the message is totally fake and unfounded. The Hong Kong banking system is robust and sound, with ample liquidity to meet the needs of the public.

The HKMA urges the public to be cautious of rumours and verify information carefully.

Cancellation of LegCo Panel on Home Affairs meeting

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

The meeting of the Legislative Council Panel on Home Affairs originally scheduled for today (November 11) at 4.30pm has been cancelled.

Early closure of Cotton Tree Drive Marriage Registry and City Hall Marriage Registry

The Immigration Department (ImmD) announced that in view of the closure of Hong Kong Park and Hong Kong City Hall, Cotton Tree Drive Marriage Registry and City Hall Marriage Registry have been closed earlier today (November 11) at 2pm.

Marrying parties who have made appointments for marriage ceremonies at Cotton Tree Drive Marriage Registry or City Hall Marriage Registry should contact the Marriage Registration and Records Office at 2867 2787 during office hours for separate arrangements.

Members of the public may visit other marriage registries for application for search of marriage records and related services. Please visit the ImmD website (www.immd.gov.hk) or call the enquiry hotline at 2824 6111 for the addresses and working hours of the registries.

Temporary closure of some LCSD leisure and sports facilities

The Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) announced today (November 11) that some leisure and sports facilities will be temporarily closed to tie in with the 2019-2020 Tissot UCI Track Cycling World Cup, Hong Kong, China, which will be staged at the Hong Kong Velodrome (HKV) in Sai Kung District from November 29 to December 1. Details are as follows:

(a) All facilities (including the Leisure Link booking office) of the HKV will be temporarily closed from November 22 to December 3; and

(b) The activity rooms and table tennis tables at Tseung Kwan O Sports Ground will be temporarily closed from November 24 to December 2 for use as athlete rest rooms and for storage of related materials. Other facilities will remain open as usual.

During the closure periods, members of the public may use similar facilities at Hang Hau Sports Centre, Tseung Kwan O Sports Centre, Tiu Keng Leng Sports Centre, Tsui Lam Sports Centre and Po Lam Sports Centre in the same district.

Update on cases of Legionnaires' disease

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health today (November 11) reported the latest number of cases of Legionnaires' disease (LD), and stressed the importance of using and maintaining properly designed man-made water systems, adding that susceptible groups should strictly observe relevant precautions.

From November 3 to 9, three community-acquired LD cases were reported:

1. A male patient, aged 66 with underlying illnesses, who lives in Shenzhen;
2. A male patient, aged 84 with underlying illnesses, who lives in Block 1,

Ocean Court, 3 Aberdeen Praya Road, Southern District; and
3. A male patient, aged 50 with good past health, who lives in Block 3, Villa Rhapsody, Symphony Bay, 533 Sai Sha Road, Ma On Shan.

"Epidemiological investigations are ongoing to identify potential sources of infection, high-risk exposure and clusters, if any," a spokesman for the CHP said.

As of November 9 this year, 96 LD cases have been reported. In 2018 and 2017, there were 105 and 72 cases respectively.

"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 (μm) 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 μm 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.