

# Effective Exchange Rate Index

The effective exchange rate index for the Hong Kong dollar on Monday, September 2, 2019 is 107.4 (same as last Saturday's index).

The effective exchange rate index for the Hong Kong dollar on Saturday, August 31, 2019 was 107.4 (up 0.1 against last Friday's index).

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## Primary School Profiles 2019 to be released

The following is issued on behalf of the Committee on Home-School Co-operation:

The Committee on Home-School Co-operation (CHSC) will upload the e-version (in Chinese and English) of the Primary School Profiles 2019 to the Internet on Wednesday (September 4). The Chinese and English printed versions of the profiles will be delivered to kindergartens and kindergarten-cum-child care centres for distribution to parents with children at the K3 level of the current school year.

The profiles provide basic information on more than 500 local primary schools covering school facilities, teaching staff information, class structure, performance assessment, school life, extra-curricular activities, school mission and school characteristics. The information is provided and verified by individual schools.

The publication of the profiles aims to provide parents with essential school information so as to enable them to choose a suitable school for their children. The profiles also include the "Message from CHSC Chairman", which states the key points for parents when choosing schools.

The e-version of the profiles enables schools to update their information on the Web directly, whenever necessary, so that parents can obtain the most up-to-date school information.

The profiles are divided by districts. Parents of children who will study at Primary One level in September 2020 will receive a copy of either the Chinese or English printed version of the profiles for their districts of residence through their respective kindergartens or kindergarten-cum-child care centres. For children not attending kindergartens or kindergarten-cum-child care centres, parents may obtain a copy from the School Places Allocation Section of the Education Bureau (EDB).

The public can access the e-version of the profiles by visiting the Primary School Profiles website at [www.chsc.hk/primary](http://www.chsc.hk/primary). Copies of the printed version will be available for public reference at District Offices, public libraries, Regional Education Offices and the Central Resources Centre of the EDB.

For enquiries about the profiles, please call the Regional Education Offices (Hong Kong: 2863 4646; Kowloon: 3698 4108; New Territories East: 2639 4876; and New Territories West: 2437 7272) or the CHSC secretariat at 3698 4376.

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## Temporary suspension of Mobile Library 1, 5 and 6 services

Mobile Libraries 1, 5 and 6 will suspend services during designated periods in September and October for routine maintenance, a spokesman for the Leisure and Cultural Services Department announced today (September 2).

Mobile Library 6 will suspend services from September 9 to 21. The affected service points are Shau Kei Wan Market in Shau Kei Wan Main Street East, Lei Tung Estate and Ap Lei Chau Estate in Ap Lei Chau, the First Aid Station in Shek O Beach, and Tsui Lam Estate in Tseung Kwan O. For enquiries about Mobile Library 6 services, please call 2505 4690.

Mobile Library 1 will suspend services from September 23 to 28. The affected service points are Whampoa Garden in Hung Hom, Riviera Gardens in Tsuen Wan, Shek Lei (I) Estate in Kwai Chung, Ko Yee Estate in Yau Tong, Kai Ching Estate in Kowloon City and Tsui Chuk Garden in Wong Tai Sin. For enquiries about Mobile Library 1 services, please call 2414 3157.

Mobile Library 5 will suspend services from September 30 to October 4. The affected service points are Chevalier Garden, Pok Hong Estate and Kam Ying Court in Sha Tin; Ming Tak Estate in Tseung Kwan O; and Tai Wo Estate, Nai Chung and On Ho Lane in Tai Po. For enquiries about Mobile Library 5 services, please call 2696 5842.

Readers are welcome to use other public libraries during the service suspension periods. They may also renew library materials by telephoning 2698 0002 or 2827 2833, or via [www.hkpl.gov.hk](http://www.hkpl.gov.hk).

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# Application forms for Primary One Admission available on Wednesday

Parents who want to apply for a Primary One (P1) place in government or aided schools for their children in September next year under the Primary One Admission (POA) System can obtain application forms starting from Wednesday (September 4) until September 27.

A spokesman for the Education Bureau (EDB) said today (September 2), "All Hong Kong children born on or before December 31, 2014, are eligible to join the POA System for admission to P1 in September 2020 provided they have not attended any primary schools and have never been allocated a P1 place.

"Parents of children who are attending kindergartens or kindergarten-cum-child care centres may obtain the application form, explanatory notes on how to complete the application form and a POA information leaflet from their kindergartens or kindergarten-cum-child care centres. For parents of children not attending kindergartens or kindergarten-cum-child care centres, the documents can be obtained from District Offices (Home Affairs Enquiry Centres) and the EDB's Regional Education Offices and School Places Allocation Section."

At the Discretionary Places Admission stage, the school chosen is not restricted to the school net in which the child resides. Parents wishing to apply for a POA discretionary place in a government or aided primary school should submit the completed application form together with all supporting documents directly to the school during school office hours between September 23 and 27.

"Commuting daily from the Mainland to schools in Hong Kong will impose pressure both mentally and physically on children. Parents of children who intend to commute daily to schools in Hong Kong should consider seriously the impact on students' learning. They should also understand the situation of various boundary control points and make early transport arrangements on their own for their children to travel to and from schools," the spokesman said.

"Only one application should be submitted for each child. If parents are found to have applied to more than one government or aided primary school, their application for a POA discretionary place will be rendered void," he said.

If parents are applying only for the POA Central Allocation, they may return the completed application forms with supporting documents during the period from September 23, 2019, to January 17, 2020, to the EDB's School Places Allocation Section at Office 2, 2/F, Manulife Financial Centre, 223 Wai Yip Street, Kwun Tong, Kowloon.

"When completing the POA application form, parents should fill in the

actual residential address of their child. If a false address is given by parents to secure a P1 place for their child under the POA System, the application will be rendered void and the P1 place allocated will be withdrawn. The public are encouraged to report suspected cases of using a false address for POA applications to the School Places Allocation Section by calling its hotline at 2832 7700," the spokesman said.

Information on the procedures for the different stages of POA, revised arrangements for applicant children who intend to commute daily to schools in Hong Kong to participate in the Central Allocation stage of the POA System and the discretionary places quota of each school will be available from Wednesday (September 4) on the EDB's 24-hour hotline at 2891 0088 and its homepage, [www.edb.gov.hk](http://www.edb.gov.hk); (path: Education System and Policy>Primary and Secondary School Education>School Places Allocation Systems>Primary One Admission System).

Parents who wish to enrol their children in Direct Subsidy Scheme primary schools, private primary schools or primary schools of the English Schools Foundation should apply directly to these schools as they are not included in the POA System. Parents should note that children who have accepted the offer of P1 places in Direct Subsidy Scheme primary schools will not be allocated P1 places in government or aided primary schools through the POA System.

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## Update on cases of Legionnaires' disease

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health today (September 2) 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 August 25 to 31, one community-acquired LD case was reported. The male patient, aged 57 with underlying illnesses, lives in Tsinan House, Tsuen Wan Centre, 100 Tsuen King Circuit, Tsuen Wan.

"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 August 31 this year, 74 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 ( $\mu\text{m}$ ) 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  $\mu\text{m}$  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.