

## CSSA caseload for July 2019

The overall Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) caseload in July showed a drop of 675 cases, representing a decrease of 0.3 per cent compared with that of June, according to the latest CSSA caseload statistics released by the Social Welfare Department today (August 21).

The total CSSA caseload at the end of July stood at 222 331 (see attached table), with a total of 317 071 recipients.

Analysed by case nature, low-earnings cases registered a month-to-month decrease of 1.4 per cent to 3 241 cases. Old age cases dropped by 0.5 per cent to 138 951 cases while single parent cases slipped by 0.2 per cent to 24 246 cases.

Ill-health cases, permanent disability cases and unemployment cases all increased by 0.2 per cent to 23 314 cases, 16 695 cases and 11 733 cases respectively.

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## Transcript of remarks by FS (with photo/video)

Following is the transcript of remarks by the Financial Secretary, Mr Paul Chan, at a media session after attending a radio programme this morning (August 21):

Reporter: Will the Central Government's plan to reposition Shenzhen into an economic hub like Hong Kong ... Hong Kong's advantages in the long term, if yes, how? And did the Central Government really set a deadline for the SAR Government to calm the situation before the National Day?

Financial Secretary: I am not aware of any deadline being set for the resolution of the current political difficulties that we are facing. As to your question about the competition between Shenzhen and Hong Kong, indeed under the Greater Bay Area development, the whole idea is coordinated development among the 11 cities in the region so as to achieve synergy in terms of economic development, so that all the cities can rise together economically. Between Shenzhen and Hong Kong, there are areas for strong complementary development, say for example in the area of innovation and technology. Shenzhen has strengths in terms of manufacturing, supply chain, and the number of leading tech companies there. Hong Kong has the advantages of research capabilities in our universities, as well as our intellectual property protection. So in a nutshell, basically it is up to us to harness these complementary advantages to develop ourselves further. And as an

international financial centre, Hong Kong has a few distinct advantages – one is the “one country, two systems” arrangement; the second is the common law system, the rule of law and independent judiciary; and thirdly is the confidence of the international communities in Hong Kong. So I think it is imperative for us to uphold and defend our advantages and make good use of these advantages to achieve greater success. Thank you.

(Please also refer to the Chinese portion of the transcript.)



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## Lifesaving services at Golden Beach resume

Attention TV/Radio Announcers:

Please broadcast the following as soon as possible and repeat it at regular intervals:

Here is an item of interest to swimmers.

The Leisure and Cultural Services Department has announced that the lifesaving services at Golden Beach in Tuen Mun District resumed today (August 21). The lifesaving services at the beach were suspended earlier due to an insufficient number of lifeguards on duty.

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## Employers and employees should take

# precautions against heat stroke

As the Hong Kong Observatory has issued the Very Hot Weather Warning, the Labour Department (LD) reminds employers and employees to take appropriate precautions to prevent heat stroke when working in a hot or humid environment.

Heat stroke could occur if an employee works in a hot or humid environment for prolonged periods of time, as the body may fail to regulate its temperature by effective heat dissipation through sweating.

The symptoms of heat-related illnesses include feeling thirsty, fatigue, nausea, vomiting, headache, dizziness, muscle spasm or even mental confusion, and loss of consciousness or convulsion in severe cases.

Construction workers, cleaning workers, kitchen workers and porters, for example, are more prone to heat stroke as they may be working for long hours in such an environment, especially if appropriate preventive measures have not been taken.

The LD reminds employers to arrange for a suitable assessment of the risk of heat stress in the work environment and take appropriate preventive measures. The LD has produced two leaflets entitled "Checklist for Heat Stress Assessment at Construction Sites" and "Checklist for Heat Stress Assessment at Outdoor Cleansing Workplaces" respectively. Employers engaged in construction or outdoor cleaning work are advised to refer to these checklists in assessing the risk of heat stress at their workplaces. As for heat stress assessment at a workplace in general, employers can refer to a booklet entitled "Risk Assessment for the Prevention of Heat Stroke at Work" produced by the LD.

The LD also reminds employers and employees to take the following precautions to prevent heat stroke:

## Employers

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- (1) Take heed of the weather report and adopt shift work arrangements for employees to reduce their exposure to the hot environment, or arrange appropriate rest breaks for them during very hot periods;
- (2) Avoid working under direct sunlight and set up temporary sunshade wherever possible;
- (3) Provide cool potable water for employees at all times during work. If necessary, provide drinks containing electrolytes for employees to replenish loss of salt during profuse sweating;
- (4) Minimise physical demands by using tools or mechanical aids at work;
- (5) Increase air flow by enhancing ventilation or air-conditioning as appropriate;
- (6) Isolate heat-generating facilities at the workplace and use insulating materials to minimise heat dissipation to the other work areas; and

(7) Provide relevant information and training for employees on heat stroke such as preventive measures and first aid treatment.

## Employees

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- (1) Wear clothing made of suitable materials (for example, cotton) that is loose-fitting and light-coloured to help heat dissipation, minimise heat absorption and allow sweat evaporation;
- (2) Wear a wide-brimmed hat when working outdoors;
- (3) Drink plenty of water or other appropriate beverages with electrolytes to replenish the fluids and salt lost through sweating; and
- (4) Whenever there are any symptoms of heat-related illnesses, rest in a cool or shady place and drink water, and inform supervisors to take appropriate actions immediately.

Some employees may have difficulty in adapting to a hot working environment owing to their own health conditions. Employers should take this into account and consider the recommendations of their doctors when assigning work to these employees.

In addition to the publications on risk assessment, the LD has produced a leaflet entitled "Prevention of Heat Stroke at Work in a Hot Environment" for the public. The publications can be obtained free of charge from the offices of the Occupational Health Service of the LD, or downloaded from the department's webpage at [www.labour.gov.hk/eng/public/content2\\_9.htm](http://www.labour.gov.hk/eng/public/content2_9.htm).

The LD organises occupational health talks in public places and at its own training venues regularly to raise employers' and employees' awareness of occupational health. Details of health talks on the prevention of heat stroke at work in a hot environment in August and September are as follows:

### (A)

Dates: August 26 and September 5, 17 and 27

(am);

August 29 and September 9 and 24

(pm)

Time: Half-day

Venue: Occupational Safety and Health Training Centre of the Labour Department, 13/F, Kolour Tsuen Wan I, 68 Chung On Street, Tsuen Wan, New Territories

### (B)

Dates: August 27

Time: Half-day, morning

Venue: Occupational Safety and Health Centre of the Labour Department, G/F, Kwun Tong Community Health Centre Building, 60 Hip Wo Street, Kwun Tong (MTR Kwun Tong Station Exit A1)

### (C)

Date: August 26

Time: 3pm to 4.30pm

Venue: Lecture Hall, Hong Kong Space Museum, 10 Salisbury Road,  
Tsim Sha Tsui, Kowloon (MTR Tsim Sha Tsui Station Exit E)

For enrolment or enquiries about these occupational health talks, please call 2852 4040 or 2361 8240 (for talks organised at the Occupational Safety and Health Centre). Moreover, the LD also provides an outreach health education service and occupational health nurses will, on invitation, disseminate occupational health information at workplaces at a convenient time. Please contact the nursing officer at 2852 4062 for details. All these health talks are free of charge.

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## Assess the risk of heat stroke to employees

Attention duty announcers, radio and TV stations:

Please broadcast the following special announcement immediately, and repeat it at frequent intervals when the Very Hot Weather Warning is in force:

The Labour Department reminds employers that as the Very Hot Weather Warning is in force, they should assess the risk of heat stroke to their employees and adopt effective preventive measures such as providing cool drinking water, setting up temporary sunshade and providing mechanical aids to reduce physical exertion of employees. Employees should drink water regularly and be mindful of their physical condition. If early heat stroke symptoms such as headache and thirst appear, they should rest in a cool or shady place and drink water immediately. They should also inform their supervisors to take appropriate actions.