Import of poultry meat and products from Godda district, Jharkhand state, India, suspended

The Centre for Food Safety (CFS) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department announced today (February 19) that in view of a notification from the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) about an outbreak of highly pathogenic H5N1 avian influenza in Godda district, Jharkhand state, India, the CFS has instructed the trade to suspend the import of poultry meat and products (including poultry eggs) from the district with immediate effect to protect public health in Hong Kong.

A CFS spokesman said Hong Kong currently has an established protocol with India for import of poultry eggs but not for poultry meat. No poultry eggs were imported into Hong Kong from India last year.

"The CFS has contacted the Indian authorities over the issue and will closely monitor information issued by the OIE on avian influenza outbreaks. Appropriate action will be taken in response to the development of the situation," the spokesman said.

Cluster of Vancomycin Resistant Enterococci cases at Kowloon Hospital

The following is issued on behalf of the Hospital Authority:

The spokesperson of Kowloon Hospital (KH) made the following announcement today (February 19):

An 85-year-old male patient in a male medical convalescent ward in KH was confirmed as carrying Vancomycin Resistant Enterococci (VRE) on February 10. In accordance with the prevailing infection control guidelines, the hospital has screened the patients who had contact with the index patient. Three more male patients (aged 75 to 82) were confirmed as being VRE carriers without any symptoms of infection. Three of them are being treated under isolation and are in stable condition. The remaining one passed away due to his underlying disease.

Infection control measures at the ward concerned have already been stepped up according to the prevailing guidelines. All other patients in the ward are under close medical surveillance.

The cases have been reported to the Hospital Authority Head Office and the Centre for Health Protection for necessary follow-up.

Company fined for illegal club operation

A company was fined \$16,000 at the Eastern Magistrates' Courts today (February 19) for contravening the Clubs (Safety of Premises) Ordinance.

The courts heard that in July last year, officers from the Office of the Licensing Authority (OLA) of the Home Affairs Department conducted an inspection at a club on Hennessy Road in Wan Chai which had been operating with a certificate of compliance (CoC).

The OLA officers found that the exit route had been obstructed. Also, the club's staff failed to show the registered drawing upon the OLA officers' request. Conditions 12 and 17 of the CoC were breached.

The company, being the CoC holder of the club, was charged with contravening section 21(2) of the Ordinance.

A spokesman for the department reminded all CoC holders to comply with the conditions as stipulated therein. Enforcement action will continue to be taken against illegal club operations.

Phishing email related to The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited

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

The Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA) wishes to alert members of the public to a press release issued by The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited on phishing email, which has been reported to the HKMA. Hyperlink to the press release is available on the HKMA website for ease of reference by members of the public.

Anyone who has provided his or her personal information to the email

concerned or has conducted any financial transactions through the email should contact the bank concerned using the contact information provided in the press release, and report to the Police or contact the Cyber Security and Technology Crime Bureau of the Hong Kong Police Force at 2860 5012.

<u>Appeal for information on missing</u> <u>woman in Kwai Chung (with photo)</u>

Police today (February 19) appealed to the public for information on a woman who went missing in Kwai Chung.

Hung On-shui, aged 58, went missing after she was last seen in a care home on Wo Tong Tsui Street yesterday (February 18) afternoon. The staff of the care home made a report to Police on the same day.

She is about 1.5 metres tall, 41 kilograms in weight and of thin build. She has a pointed face with yellow complexion and short grey hair. She was last seen wearing a black long-sleeved shirt with pink dots pattern, black trousers and blue slippers.

Anyone who knows the whereabouts of the missing woman or may have seen her is urged to contact the Regional Missing Person Unit of New Territories South on 3661 1176 or 9689 7445 or email to rmpu-nts-2@police.gov.hk, or contact any police station.

