

EMSD responds to findings of investigation into MTRCL staff assessment mechanism

The Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) today (August 31) made the following response with regard to the investigation report submitted by the MTR Corporation Limited (MTRCL) on its assessment mechanism for the qualification of Engineer's Person-in-charge (EPIC):

The Government has always accorded top priority to railway safety and has put in place a stringent regulatory system. The EMSD regulates and monitors the safe operation of the railway system according to the Mass Transit Railway Ordinance and its subsidiary regulations, including monitoring the qualifications and training of railway staff. After learning in June this year of the alleged collective cheating in the MTRCL's EPIC course examinations, the EMSD immediately requested the MTRCL to carry out an investigation into the allegations. The EMSD has in parallel conducted an independent investigation.

The investigation carried out by the EMSD found no evidence that suggested examination leakage or collective cheating by examination candidates, though it does find there is room for improvement concerning the examination system. The EMSD has requested the MTRCL to implement various improvement measures and will closely monitor the MTRCL in implementing these measures in a timely manner, including carrying out random inspections to ensure that the examination system concerned is robust in order to safeguard the safe operation of the railway system.

Transcript of remarks by STH

Following is the transcript of remarks by the Secretary for Transport and Housing, Mr Frank Chan Fan, at a media session after attending the Legislative Council Panel on Transport special meeting today (August 31):

Reporter: But shouldn't that be something the Government should be well aware of, how the MTRC supervises its projects, instead of not knowing, like with so many unknowns right now? Doesn't that indicate there is something wrong with the supervision mechanism on the Government's side, on the Government's part?

Secretary for Transport and Housing: We are open to all kinds of possibilities, including whether or not and how we would be able to be aware

of what's happening in the past. Basically, we are of the view that there are very likely deception and hiding of facts in the process. This is something not within the system, because all management systems are basically based on trust and of course there are checks and balances. But somehow the system doesn't work this time and we will look into that, as to how the MTR (Corporation) as well as the Government team should improve in future.

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

Cluster of Rhinovirus cases in Siu Lam Hospital

The following is issued on behalf of the Hospital Authority:

The spokesperson for Siu Lam Hospital made the following announcement today (August 31):

Three patients (aged 19 to 58) and a staff member in a male ward for severe intellectual disability have presented with respiratory symptoms since August 28. Appropriate viral tests were arranged for the patients and their test results were positive for Rhinovirus. The patients concerned are being treated under isolation and are in a stable condition. The staff member has recovered and resumed duty.

Admission to the ward has been suspended and restricted visiting has been imposed. Infection control measures have already been stepped up according to established guidelines. All other patients in the ward are under close surveillance.

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

Update on number of dengue fever cases

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health today (August 31) reported the latest number of cases of dengue fever (DF), and again urged the public to maintain strict environmental hygiene, mosquito control and personal protective measures both locally and during travel.

From August 25 to 31 (as of noon), the CHP recorded one imported DF

case. The patient had been to multiple countries (Maldives, Malaysia and Japan) during the incubation period.

As of noon today (August 31), 90 cases had been confirmed this year, 28 of which were local cases and 62 imported cases. The imported cases were mainly imported from Thailand (26), the Philippines (12) and Cambodia (seven).

DF remains endemic in some areas in Asia and beyond. In Guangdong, there were 121 cases recorded in the first seven months of this year. The latest figures for 2018 reveal that 50 079 cases have been recorded in Thailand, 1 846 in Singapore (since December 31, 2017) and 90 in Japan. In Taiwan, 55 local cases have been recorded to date in 2018. In the Americas, the latest figures indicate that 239 389 and 23 211 cases have been filed in Brazil and Mexico respectively in 2018.

The public should take heed of the following advice on mosquito control:

- Thoroughly check all gully traps, roof gutters, surface channels and drains to prevent blockage;
- Scrub and clean drains and surface channels with an alkaline detergent compound at least once a week to remove any deposited mosquito eggs;
- Properly dispose of refuse, such as soft drink cans, empty bottles and boxes, in covered litter containers;
- Completely change the water of flowers and plants at least once a week. The use of saucers should be avoided if possible;
- Level irregular ground surfaces before the rainy season;
- Avoid staying in shrubby areas; and
- Take personal protective measures such as wearing light-coloured long-sleeved clothes and trousers and apply insect repellent containing DEET to clothing or uncovered areas of the body when doing outdoor activities.

To reduce the risk of infections spread by mosquitoes, apart from [general measures](#), travellers returning from affected areas should apply insect repellent for 14 days (DF) or at least 21 days (Zika virus infection) upon arrival in Hong Kong. If feeling unwell, seek medical advice promptly and provide travel details to the doctor. DEET-containing insect repellents are effective and the public should take heed of the tips below:

- Read the label instructions carefully first;
- Apply right before entering an area with risk of mosquito bites;
- Apply on exposed skin and clothing;
- Use DEET of up to 30 per cent for pregnant women and up to 10 per cent for children*;
- Apply sunscreen first, then insect repellent; and
- Re-apply only when needed and follow the instructions.

* For children who travel to countries or areas where mosquito-borne diseases are endemic or epidemic and where exposure is likely, those aged 2 months or above can use DEET-containing insect repellents with a DEET concentration of up to 30 per cent.

The public may refer to the CHP's [tips for using insect repellents](#) for details.

SHA congratulates Hong Kong cycling athletes on winning two gold medals in Asian Games

The Secretary for Home Affairs, Mr Lau Kong-wah, today (August 31) extended his congratulations to Hong Kong cycling athletes Lee Wai-sze and the duo of Cheung King-lok and Leung Chun-wing on winning a gold medal in the Women's Sprint event and Men's Madison event of Track Cycling respectively in the 18th Asian Games, being held in Jakarta and Palembang in Indonesia.

Mr Lau said, "After defending her title in the Keirin event, Lee Wai-sze won a gold medal in the sprint event with her unstoppable determination and outstanding strength. Her excellent results have encouraged fellow Hong Kong athletes and we are proud of her achievements. Cheung King-lok and Leung Chun-wing have demonstrated excellent team spirit and adopted the right strategy to win a gold medal over strong fellow Asian contestants. They deserve our congratulations."

The Hong Kong team has so far won 37 medals, namely six gold medals, 14 silver medals and 17 bronze medals, at this Asian Games. The list of other medals won from August 29 to today is as follows:

Today

Silver medal

Cycling (Track): Women's Madison
Pang Yao and Yang Qianyu

August 30

Silver medal

Cycling (Track): Men's Omnium
Leung Chun-wing

August 29

Bronze medal

Table Tennis: Mixed Doubles
Lee Ho-ching and Ho Kwan-kit