

# Safety alert on specific lots of CoaguChek blood coagulation test strips (with photos)

The Department of Health (DH) today (August 28) drew public attention to a safety alert issued by local supplier Roche Diagnostics (Hong Kong) Limited concerning specific lots of its blood coagulation test strips, namely CoaguChek XS PT Test and CoaguChek XS PT PST Test.

The affected lots are:

Product	Reference Number	Lot Number
CoaguChek XS PT Test	04625315019 (2 x 24 tests)	#272167 – 334498
	04625315172 (2 x 24 tests)	
	04625358019 (24 tests)	
	04625358172 (24 tests)	
CoaguChek XS PT PST Test	07671687019 (24 tests)	#272167 – 334498

The manufacturer, Roche, has received an increased number of complaints regarding deviation of CoaguChek test strips against laboratory methods. Subsequent investigation by Roche revealed that the issue was related to calibration of their test strips against the latest standard from the World Health Organization, which was renewed in 2016. Analysis by Roche revealed that:

- For values between 0.8 and 4.5 International Normalised Ratio (INR) values, no significant differences are seen compared with laboratory results and the test is reliable.
- For values above 4.5 INR, greater than expected deviations are observed compared with laboratory results.

According to Roche, the limitation caused by the issue should be minimal. Patients recording values above 4.5 INR are advised to consult their healthcare professionals and request for a laboratory examination to cross-check the values.

"So far, the DH has not received any local report of adverse incidents related to the test strips in Hong Kong," a spokesman for the DH said.

According to the local supplier, approximately 180 boxes of the affected

test strips have been distributed to local hospitals, private clinics, medical centres, a university and individual patients. It will inform the affected parties accordingly.

The local supplier has also set up hotlines (2485 7598/2485 7596) to answer customer enquiries during office hours.



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## SWD cordially invites residential property management companies to join hand in supporting elderly persons

The Social Welfare Department (SWD) today (August 28) issued invitation letters to 65 residential property management companies to invite their participation in a territory-wide campaign to support elderly persons (including those suffering from dementia and hidden elders) and their needy carers by releasing their front-line property management staff to receive training so that they can render assistance to elderly persons and their carers.

Hong Kong, with a population of elderly persons aged above 65 exceeding 1.1 million, is moving towards an era of ageing population. In the foreseeable future, the ageing trend will continue. In this regard, the SWD is going to launch in October a territory-wide campaign featuring a series of activities and publicity events. The campaign aims to raise public awareness and enlist community support to needy elders and their carers so as to help them age in place and relieve their carers' stress.

One of the major target groups of the campaign is the front-line staff

of residential property management companies, who have frequent contacts with elderly persons and their carers. They would be able to observe elderly residents' daily routine and easily identify changes in their physical condition. To encourage property management companies to fulfil their corporate social responsibility by actively participating in the campaign, the SWD issued invitation letters to 65 residential property management companies today to seek their support by releasing their front-line staff to receive training so that they can identify the needs of elderly persons and their carers and offer suitable assistance.

The training course will be provided by non-governmental organisations commissioned by the SWD. Each training session of around 20 to 45 minutes is free of charge. The training covers knowledge about dementia, symptoms of hidden elders and information of community support services.

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## SHA congratulates Hong Kong cycling athlete Lee Wai-sze on winning gold medal in Asian Games

The Secretary for Home Affairs, Mr Lau Kong-wah, today (August 28) extended his congratulations to Hong Kong cycling athlete Lee Wai-sze on winning a gold medal in the Women's Track Keirin in the 18th Asian Games, being held in Jakarta and Palembang in Indonesia.

Mr Lau said, "Lee Wai-sze has demonstrated the demeanour of a great athlete and defended her title. We share her joy as she won glory for Hong Kong again. I hope she can achieve further good results in the remaining competitions."

The Hong Kong team has so far won 32 medals, namely four gold medals, 12 silver medals and 16 bronze medals, at this Asian Games. The list of other medals won from August 26 to today are as follows:

Today

Silver medal

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Cycling (Track): Men's Team Pursuit

Cheung King-lok, Ko Siu-wai, Leung Chun-wing, Leung Ka-yu and Mow Ching-yin

Bronze medal

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Table Tennis: Women's Team

Doo Hoi-kem, Lee Ho-ching, Li Ching-wan, Ng Wing-nam and Minnie Soo

August 27

Silver medal

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Bridge: Men's Team

Lai Wai-kit, Lau Pik-kin, Mak Kwok-fai, Ng Chi-cheung, Wan Siu-kau and Zen Wei-peu

Bridge: Super Mixed Team

Pearlie Chan, Ho Hoi-tung, Ho Wai-lam, Charmian Koo, Flora Wong, Yeung Hoi-ning

Badminton: Mixed Doubles

Tang Chun-man and Tse Ying-suet

Cycling (Track): Women's Team Sprint

Lee Wai-sze, Li Yin-yin and Ma Wing-yu

August 26

Bronze medal

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Athletics: Women's 100m Hurdles

Lui Lai-yiu

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## **Hospital Authority response on hepatitis E outbreak incident**

The following is issued on behalf of the Hospital Authority:

In response to media enquiries, the Hospital Authority (HA) spokesperson today (August 28) responded as follows:

The HA expressed its concern on the findings of the Microbiology Department of the University of Hong Kong yesterday (August 27) regarding the possible transmission of hepatitis E from a deceased donor, and will establish an expert group to review the findings with a view to further enhancing the safety of organ transplant services and the care of transplant patients.

The expert group, comprising microbiologists, hepatologists, organ transplant and infection disease experts, will assess the effectiveness and feasibility of introducing screening of hepatitis E in organ donors. While the known risk of acquiring infectious diseases during organ transplant can never be completely eliminated, the expert group will consider the protocol

of post-transplant clinical management of organ recipients if hepatitis E infection is identified in an asymptomatic organ donor.

Meanwhile, the four recipients of the heart, liver and two kidneys have been informed of the latest findings and appropriate antiviral treatment have commenced. The hospitals concerned will closely monitor the condition of the four patients who are currently in a stable condition. Three of them have already discharged. The case of the deceased lung recipient will be referred to the coroner for further follow-up.

The HA would also like to thank the organ donor again for her contribution and has informed her family on the latest findings.

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## [Scientific Committee discusses local dengue fever situation and reviews prevention and control strategy \(with photo\)](#)

The Scientific Committee on Vector-borne Diseases (SCVBD) under the Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health (DH) met today (August 28) to review the latest situation of local dengue fever (DF) and the Government's prevention and control measures.

Members noted that as of yesterday, 26 confirmed local DF cases have been recorded this year. Based on the CHP's epidemiological investigations, two sources of infection, namely Lion Rock Park and Cheung Chau, have been identified.

At the meeting, representatives from the CHP and Food and Environmental Hygiene Department presented to members the prevention and control measures carried out by the Government in response to the recent outbreak. Members reiterated the importance of isolating confirmed patients in mosquito-free environments during their febrile period to prevent potential transmission of dengue viruses to mosquitoes. In addition, they acknowledged that the prompt and intensive anti-mosquito operations carried out at this critical moment have been effective in preventing further spread of DF. They also agreed that the intensive anti-mosquito measures must be continued in the coming months in all districts to prevent DF from taking root in Hong Kong.

The Controller of the CHP, Dr Wong Ka-hing, said, "Apart from the Government's prevention and control measures, the prevention of secondary spread of DF as well as the carrying out of anti-mosquito measures by members of the public are equally important.

"Scientific studies have shown that infected persons can transmit the virus to mosquitoes through mosquito bites even if they remain asymptomatic or before their onset of symptoms, leading to further spread of the disease. People who have visited Lion Rock Park should be advised to apply insect repellent for 14 days after their last visit, and those with DF symptoms should seek medical advice as early as possible. Meanwhile, people who reside in or visit Cheung Chau should also be advised to apply insect repellent during their stay and continue applying for 14 days after their last day of stay to prevent infection and secondary spread.

"We will take on board experts' views in reinforcing ongoing prevention and control measures. The CHP will closely monitor the local situation and revise its response if necessary," Dr Wong said.

The CHP has provided [information](#) and [locations of the residences and local movements](#) of the local DF cases on the CHP's designated webpage for DF to facilitate handy access to the outbreak information for the public.

The public should call 1823 in case of mosquito problems and may visit the DF pages of the [CHP](#) and its [Travel Health Service](#), the latest [Travel Health News](#), [tips for using insect repellents](#), the CHP [Facebook Page](#) and [YouTube Channel](#), and the FEHD's [Guidebook on Control and Prevention of Mosquito Breeding](#) for more information.

