

Updates on cluster of Candida auris cases in Kowloon Central Cluster

The following is issued on behalf of the Hospital Authority:

The spokesperson for Kowloon Central Cluster made the following announcement today (August 15):

Regarding an earlier announcement on Candida auris carrier cases in a ward of the department of tuberculosis and chest in TWGHs Wong Tai Sin Hospital (WTSB), following a contact tracing investigation, one more patient, an 89-year-old female, in the same ward was identified as a carrier of Candida auris without signs of infection. She is in serious condition due to underlying diseases and is being treated in isolation in WTSB.

Moreover, regarding an earlier announcement on Candida auris carrier cases in the medicine and geriatrics ward of Hong Kong Buddhist Hospital, one more patient, an 85-year-old male, in the same ward was confirmed to carry Candida auris without signs of infection following a contact tracing investigation. The patient is now being treated in isolation in Kowloon Hospital and is in stable condition.

The hospitals will continue the contact tracing investigation of close contacts of the patients in accordance with the prevailing guidelines. A series of enhanced infection control measures have already been adopted to prevent the spread of Candida auris:

1. Thorough cleaning and disinfection of the wards concerned;
2. Enhanced patient and environmental screening procedures; and
3. Application of stringent contact precautions and enhanced hand hygiene of staff and patients.

The hospitals will closely monitor the situation in the wards. The cases have been reported to the Hospital Authority Head Office and the Centre for Health Protection for necessary follow-up.

“Launch from Greater Bay Area: Nanhai I Shipwreck and the Maritime Silk Road” exhibition opens

The opening ceremony of the exhibition entitled "Launch from Greater Bay

Area: Nanhai I Shipwreck and the Maritime Silk Road", co-organised by the Development Bureau (DEVB), the National Cultural Heritage Administration and the Secretariat for Social Affairs and Culture of the Government of the Macao Special Administrative Region, was held today (August 15). Featuring artefacts discovered from Nanhai I, an ocean-going merchant ship, and relevant artefacts from Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao, the exhibition showcases the role of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area on the Maritime Silk Road.

The opening ceremony was officiated by the Secretary for Development, Ms Bernadette Linn; Deputy Director of Art Exhibitions China Ms Zhou Yu; the President of the Guangdong Provincial Institute of Cultural Relics and Archaeology, Ms Cao Jin; and the Vice President of the Cultural Affairs Bureau of the Government of the Macao Special Administrative Region, Mr Cheang Kai-meng.

Nanhai I was a merchant ship of the Southern Song dynasty. Its shipwreck was salvaged in 2007 and is the most complete ancient ocean-going merchant ship discovered through archaeological excavation to date. A large collection of artefacts was discovered from Nanhai I, mainly porcelain, bronzeware, ironware, gold, silverware, lacquerware and woodenware. The quantities, shapes, craftsmanship and forms of the artefacts are rare among the archaeological finds of the Southern Song dynasty. Archaeologists believe that Nanhai I might have sunk along the maritime route from Guangdong to the South China Sea in the 10th year of the Chunxi reign (1183) of the Southern Song dynasty or shortly afterwards.

Among the 255 items of exhibits are artefacts discovered from Nanhai I, including a brown glazed jar with four lugs and stamped with the Chinese characters "Chun Xi Shi Nian" (i.e. the 10th year of the Chunxi reign) from the Nanhai kiln; a qingbai glazed foliated bowl with stamped plum blossom pattern from the Jingdezhen kiln; a green glazed ogee-shaped foliated dish with incised lotus pattern from the Longquan kiln; a necklace with gold chain and rhinoceros horn-shaped cone ornaments; and a gem-set hollow gold bracelet. Also on display are relevant exhibits unearthed from Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao, including the bottom fragment of a qingbai glazed bowl with inked Chinese characters "Gong Shi" (i.e. envoy) from the Hutian kiln of the Song dynasty from the site of the Nanyue Kingdom Palace in Guangzhou; a yellowish-green glazed jar with six lugs and dragon pattern of the Song dynasty from the site of the former Sacred Hill in Hong Kong; and a blue-and-white kendi with elephant head shaped spout from the Jingdezhen kiln of the Ming dynasty from the site of St. Paul's College in Macao.

The exhibition will run at the Hong Kong Heritage Discovery Centre, Kowloon Park, Haiphong Road, Tsim Sha Tsui, from tomorrow (August 16) to February 12 next year. Admission is free. A short video about the preparation of the exhibition is available on the website of the Antiquities and Monuments Office of the DEVB

(www.amo.gov.hk/en/news/index_id_153.html?year=2024).

Speech by FS at Summer Talent Fest closing ceremony (English only)

Following is the speech by the Financial Secretary, Mr Paul Chan, at the Summer Talent Fest closing ceremony today (August 15):

Sunny (Chairman of the Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation, Dr Sunny Chai), Albert (Chief Executive Officer of the Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation, Mr Albert Wong), young talent from Hong Kong and abroad,

Good afternoon. It is a great pleasure to join you today at the Summer Talent Fest closing ceremony. It is particularly heartening to meet you, young future innovators.

Just now I had the opportunity to speak with a group of local and global talent who participated in the various internship programmes offered by Science Park. I am very pleased to hear that you have been enjoying your internships, which have provided you with a taste of Hong Kong's innovation and technology (I&T) landscape, valuable work experience with the startups, and inspiration for your career.

Innovation and technology is a priority policy area of this Government in promoting our economic development. With a free, open and multicultural environment, a burgeoning circle of startups, a vibrant financial ecosystem, and a deep pool of local and international talent, Hong Kong has built a flourishing I&T ecosystem with boundless opportunities for innovators. But what is perhaps most exciting about a career in this field is the difference you can make for the community, or even for humanity. There are plenty of such inspiring stories in human history.

For those of you joining this programme from the Mainland and abroad, let me emphasise that Hong Kong welcomes you. Our Government knows for a fact that talent is the cornerstone of our future. At the end of 2022, we introduced new talent admission programmes and revised existing ones. For example, the Top Talent Pass Scheme, which welcomes graduates from the global top 100 universities to explore opportunities in the city, even without a prior work offer. Response to these schemes is overwhelming. We have received over 340 000 applications, and more than 210 000 have been approved, of which 140 000 applicants have arrived in Hong Kong.

I am confident that after a brief stay here in Hong Kong, you will find this city an excellent place to live, work and raise a family. And please do share your experience here with your friends and peers back home. They will be very welcome as well.

Before I close, I wish to extend my congratulations once again to our young innovators. I eagerly look forward to seeing you again as a member of Hong Kong's I&T community in the future. I also thank the Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks for organising the various internship programmes and, of course, this highly exciting Summer Talent Fest. May I wish you all the best of health, business and career in the time to come.

Thank you very much.

Excessive cadmium found in imported crab sample

The Centre for Food Safety (CFS) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department today (August 15) announced that an imported crab sample from Australia was detected with cadmium, a metallic contaminant, at a level exceeding the legal limit. The CFS is following up on the incident.

"The CFS collected the above-mentioned crab sample at the import level for testing under its routine Food Surveillance Programme. The test result showed that the sample contained cadmium at a level of 6.17 parts per million, exceeding the legal limit of 2 ppm," a spokesman for the CFS said.

"Long-term excessive intake of cadmium may affect the kidney functions. The CFS has informed the importer concerned of the irregularity and instructed it to stop sales and remove from shelves the affected product. The CFS is also tracing the source and distribution of the product concerned," the spokesman added.

According to the Food Adulteration (Metallic Contamination) Regulations (Cap. 132V), any person who sells food with metallic contamination above the legal limit is liable upon conviction to a fine of \$50,000 and imprisonment for six months.

The CFS will alert the Australian authorities and the trade, continue to follow up on the incident and take appropriate action. The investigation is ongoing.

Appointment to Independent Commission

on Remuneration for Members of the District Councils of the HKSAR

â€‹The Government announced today (August 15) that the Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs has appointed Mr Ho Hon-man as a member of the Independent Commission on Remuneration for Members of the District Councils of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. The appointment is to fill the vacancy arising from the resignation of Mr Lam Fung. The appointment takes effect today until the end of the current term of the Independent Commission on July 31, 2025.

Mr Lam resigned from the Independent Commission in December 2023 after he was elected as a Kwun Tong District Council (DC) member in the 2023 DC Ordinary Election.

"We would like to thank Mr Lam Fung for his contribution to the work of the Independent Commission in the past," a Government spokesman said.

The Independent Commission advises the Government on matters relating to the system of remuneration packages for members of the District Councils. The current Chairman is Mr Jimmy Kwok Chun-wah, and the other members are Professor Leonard Cheng Kwok-hon, Mr Kevin Lam Sze-cay and Professor Alexander Wai Ping-kong.