

DCS chairs eighth meeting of Task Force on District Governance (with photos)

The Deputy Chief Secretary for Administration, Mr Cheuk Wing-hing, chaired the eighth meeting of the Task Force on District Governance today (May 22) to follow up on the initiatives in accordance with the work assigned by the Steering Committee on District Governance. The meeting co-ordinated various departments in formulating specific implementation measures on issues of local concern and continuously reviewed the work progress and performance.

Mr Cheuk said, "With the full implementation of the improved district governance structure, various policies and measures have been carried out in accordance with the overall strategies set by the Steering Committee, leading to concrete improvements in district facilities and environmental hygiene. The Task Force will continue to co-ordinate departments in optimising resources and deepening collaboration to advance people-centric measures and unite community efforts in building a better home."

The Steering Committee chaired by the Chief Secretary for Administration has formulated strategies for 12 district issues, including multiple measures to enhance the local environment and improve streetscapes to create a more comfortable and livable environment while boosting the city's appeal to tourists. The Task Force followed up at the meeting on the implementation progress and outcome of relevant initiatives, including:

1. Combating air-conditioner water dripping to improve community environment

The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) is adopting a multipronged approach from May to September 2025 to address air conditioner water-dripping nuisances at 30 blackspots which particularly affect commuters at bus stops, including public education and stringent enforcement. In respect of publicity and education, as of April 30, the FEHD distributed around 16 000 leaflets and posters across 495 buildings and housing estates, reminding residents to take proactive measures to reduce dripping-related disturbances. By May 15, the FEHD had inspected 306 private buildings and estates, and issued 180 statutory "Nuisance Notices" to owners/residents responsible for hygiene disturbances caused by dripping air conditioners, requiring them to abate the nuisance within a specified period.

2. Cleaning pedestrian walkways to improve city streets

Starting in February 2025, the FEHD launched cleaning operations at 81 selected locations across the territory, utilising mini street-washing vehicles equipped with pressure washer surface cleaners and high-pressure hot water cleaners to remove stubborn stains and moss. After three months, significant improvements were observed at these sites. The FEHD has since May expanded the operations to 80 additional locations with street cleanliness

issues.

3. Strengthening thematic planting

To enrich urban landscapes and boost tourist appeal, relevant departments plan to plant more flowering trees across 11 new projects in 2025, creating visually appealing neighborhoods. Two beautification projects were completed in Q1 2025, including planting about 40 *Cassia bakeriana* along major pedestrian pathways at the Kai Tak Sports Park, and introducing over 300 ornamental trees, such as *Liquidambar formosana*, pink trumpet trees, jacaranda and Indian almond at Shing Fung Road Park in Kowloon City. The relevant departments will continue to implement the various beautification projects during the remainder of this year. These include planting flowering plants near various competition venues to enhance the surroundings in preparation for the 15th National Games in November; and adding decorative lights to trees in the piazza of the Hong Kong Cultural Centre to create a more vibrant night-time atmosphere.

4. Enhancing the community environment and strengthening local characteristics

The Highways Department (HyD) has undertaken renovation and beautification works for 36 footbridges and tunnels, with 26 structures already completed. The HyD has also identified four locations for streetscape enhancements, featuring installation of thematic manhole covers, replacement of pavement tiles, and large-scale aesthetic upgrades to lampposts, thereby reinforcing local characteristics and scenery.

The Task Force also reviewed at the meeting the arrangements for displaying publicity materials to celebrate the 28th anniversary of the establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region and received reports on the work of relevant departments on other eight key district issues (Note).

Mr Cheuk said, "This year marks the 28th anniversary of the return of Hong Kong to our motherland and the fifth anniversary of the promulgation and implementation of the Law of the People's Republic of China on Safeguarding National Security in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. I urge all departments to unite, leverage the strengths of our enhanced district governance system, and jointly foster a vibrant festive atmosphere for celebrations and major events, deepening people's sense of patriotism."

Note: The eight key issues include: (1) expanding after-school care and enhancing support for parents; (2) caring for the elderly and enhancing community support; (3) fostering clean markets and mobilising the community to participate in anti-rodent work; (4) enhancing public order and combating crimes on all fronts; (5) improving pedestrian facilities and ensuring road safety; (6) improving the environment of public housing estates and creating comfortable homes; (7) caring for the elderly and promoting digital inclusion; and (8) Improving the waiting environment at public transport interchanges to enhance the travel experience.



CHP investigates case of invasive meningococcal infection

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health today (May 22) is investigating a case of invasive meningococcal infection, and reminds the public to avoid direct contact with droplets from carriers or infected persons and to maintain good personal and environmental hygiene at all times to minimise the risk of contracting this serious disease.

The case involved a 68-year-old male with underlying illnesses, who presented with fever, left knee pain and swelling on May 17. He attended the Accident and Emergency Department of Pamela Youde Nethersole Eastern Hospital on May 18 and was admitted for treatment on the same day. His left knee joint fluid specimen tested positive for *Neisseria meningitidis* upon laboratory testing. The clinical diagnosis was septic arthritis of the left knee. The patient is now in a stable condition.

An initial investigation revealed that the patient had no travel history during the incubation period. His home contacts have remained asymptomatic so far. The CHP's investigation is ongoing.

Meningococcal infection is one of the statutory notifiable diseases. As of today, the CHP has recorded six cases this year.

Meningococcal infection is caused by a bacterium known as meningococcus. It is mainly transmitted by direct contact with respiratory secretions, including droplets from the nose and throat, of infected persons. Severe illness may result when the bacteria invade the bloodstream (meningococcaemia) or the membranes that envelop the brain and spinal cord (meningococcal meningitis). Meningococcaemia is characterised by a sudden onset of fever, an intense headache, purpura, shock and even death in severe cases. Meningococcal meningitis is characterised by high fever, severe headache, stiff neck followed by drowsiness, vomiting, fear of bright light, or rash; it can cause brain damage or even death.

To prevent meningococcal infection, members of the public are advised to take the following measures:

- Wash hands with liquid soap and water properly, especially when they are soiled by respiratory secretions, e.g. after sneezing, and clean hands with alcohol-based handrub when they are not visibly soiled;
- Cover the nose and mouth when sneezing or coughing, hold the spit with a tissue, dispose of nasal and mouth discharge in a lidded rubbish bin, and wash hands immediately;
- Avoid crowded places;
- Avoid close contact with patients who have a fever or severe headache;
- Consult doctors about meningococcal vaccination before travelling to high-risk areas; and
- Seek medical advice if you become ill after returning from high-risk areas, and discuss your recent travel history with your doctor.

The public may visit the CHP's [website](#) for more information on meningococcal infection.

CFS follows up on aquatic product imported from Japan suspected of breaching Food Safety Order

The Centre for Food Safety (CFS) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department announced today (May 22) that an aquatic product from a regulated Japanese prefecture was suspected to be in breach of the relevant Food Safety Order when the CFS inspected food imported from Japan. The product concerned has been marked and sealed by the CFS and has not entered the market. The CFS is following up on the case.

A spokesman for the CFS said, "During an inspection of the consignment of food imported from Japan, the CFS found a pack of chilled scallops manufactured in Miyagi Prefecture after the Order was issued. The importer concerned is thus suspected of breaching the relevant Order."

According to the Order, all aquatic products originating from the 10 metropolis/prefectures, namely Tokyo, Fukushima, Ibaraki, Miyagi, Chiba, Gunma, Tochigi, Niigata, Nagano and Saitama, are prohibited from being imported into and supplied in Hong Kong if they are harvested, manufactured, processed or packed on or after August 24, 2023, including all live, chilled, frozen, dried or otherwise preserved aquatic products, sea salt, and unprocessed or processed seaweed.

â€‹The CFS will continue to follow up on such incident and take appropriate action, including informing the Japanese authorities concerned of the incident. Prosecution will be instituted against the importer concerned should there be sufficient evidence. The investigation is ongoing.

Hong Kong Customs detects smuggling case by river trade vessel involving goods worth about \$28 million (with photo)

â€‹Hong Kong Customs on May 9 detected a suspected smuggling case involving a river trade vessel. A large batch of suspected smuggled goods with a total estimated market value of about \$28 million was seized.

Through intelligence analysis and risk assessment, Customs suspected that criminals were using river trade vessels to smuggle goods to Macao, and thus formulated strategies to combat such activities. During the operation, a river trade vessel departing from Hong Kong and bound for Macao was selected for inspection on the abovementioned date. Large batches of suspected smuggled goods were seized, including electronic parts, beauty needles, alternative smoking products, suspected duty-not-paid tobacco products, suspected scheduled dried shark fins and expensive food ingredients.

An investigation is ongoing.

Being a government department primarily responsible for tackling smuggling activities, Customs has long been combating various smuggling activities on all fronts. Customs will keep up its enforcement action and continue to resolutely combat sea smuggling activities through proactive risk management and intelligence-based enforcement strategies, and carry out targeted anti-smuggling operations at suitable times to crack down on relevant activities.

Smuggling is a serious offence. Under the Import and Export Ordinance, any person found guilty of importing or exporting unmanifested cargo is liable to a maximum fine of \$2 million and imprisonment for seven years upon conviction.

Moreover, Under the Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants Ordinance (Cap. 586), any person importing, exporting or possessing specimens of endangered species not in accordance with the Ordinance commits an offence and will be liable to a maximum fine of \$10 million and imprisonment for 10 years upon conviction with the specimens forfeited.

Members of the public may report any suspected smuggling activities to Customs' 24-hour hotline 182 8080 or its dedicated crime-reporting email account (crimereport@customs.gov.hk) or online form (eform.cefs.gov.hk/form/ced002/).



HAD opens temporary heat shelters

The Home Affairs Department will continue to open 19 community halls/community centres as temporary heat shelters today (May 22).

The temporary heat shelters will remain open for people to take refuge from the heat when the Very Hot Weather Warning is in force. From 10.30pm to 8am the next day, the temporary heat shelters will also provide bedding and a sleeping place for people in need. The shelters are manned by duty attendants.

For further information, please call the department's hotline before midnight on 2572 8427.

The heat shelters are located at:

Hong Kong Island:

Central and Western –
Kennedy Town Community Complex
1/F, 12 Rock Hill Street, Kennedy Town

Eastern –
Causeway Bay Community Centre
3/F, 7 Fook Yum Road, Causeway Bay

Southern –
Lei Tung Community Hall
Lei Tung Estate, Ap Lei Chau

Wan Chai –

Wan Chai Activities Centre

LG/F, Wan Chai Market, 258 Queen's Road East, Wan Chai

Kowloon:

Kowloon City –

Hung Hom Community Hall

1/F, Kowloon City Government Offices

42 Bailey Street, Hung Hom

Kwun Tong –

Lam Tin (West) Estate Community Centre

71 Kai Tin Road, Lam Tin

Sham Shui Po –

Shek Kip Mei Community Hall

G/F, Block 42, Shek Kip Mei Estate

Wong Tai Sin –

Tsz Wan Shan (South) Estate Community Centre

45 Wan Wah Street, Tsz Wan Shan

Yau Tsim Mong –

Henry G Leong Yaumatei Community Centre

60 Public Square Street, Yau Ma Tei

New Territories:

Islands –

Tung Chung Community Hall

G/F, Tung Chung Municipal Services Building, 39 Man Tung Road, Tung Chung

Kwai Tsing –

Kwai Shing Community Hall

Podium, Block 6, Kwai Shing West Estate, Kwai Chung

North –

Cheung Wah Community Hall

Cheung Wah Estate, Fanling

Sai Kung –

Hang Hau Community Hall

G/F, Sai Kung Tseung Kwan O Government Complex, 38 Pui Shing Road, Hang Hau,
Tseung Kwan O

Sha Tin –

Lung Hang Estate Community Centre

Lung Hang Estate, Sha Tin

Tai Po –

Tai Po Community Centre

2 Heung Sze Wui Street, Tai Po

Tsuen Wan –

Lei Muk Shue Community Hall

G/F, Hong Shue House, Lei Muk Shue Estate, Tsuen Wan

Tuen Mun –

Butterfly Bay Community Centre

Butterfly Estate (near Tip Sum House), Tuen Mun

Yuen Long –

Long Ping Community Hall

Long Ping Estate, Yuen Long

Yuen Long –

Tin Yiu Community Centre

Tin Yiu Estate, Tin Shui Wai

In addition to the above heat shelters, a number of community halls/community centres can also be used for taking refuge from the heat during their operating hours. For their address details, please browse the following document:

www.had.gov.hk/file_manager/en/documents/public_services/emergency_services/List_CH_CC_Day_E.pdf.