

[Update on investigation into case of Legionnaires' disease in United Christian Hospital](#)

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health (DH) today (June 16) reported an update on its investigation into a case of Legionnaires' disease (LD) in United Christian Hospital (UCH) announced on May 31.

The case involves a male patient, aged 86, who was admitted to UCH from May 16 to 25, and was readmitted to UCH on May 26. The patient is currently in stable condition. His respiratory specimen tested positive for *Legionella pneumophila* serogroup 1 (Lp1) upon laboratory testing.

Water samples and environmental swabs were collected from UCH on May 31 to test for legionella in a joint investigation by the CHP and the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department on the possible source of infection and to support the implementation of control measures.

Upon laboratory testing, 11 out of 17 water samples tested positive for Lp1, with levels from 0.4 to 34 colony-forming units per millilitre (cfu/ml), while one out of four environmental swabs tested positive for Lp1.

Laboratory investigations of the CHP's Public Health Laboratory Services Branch show that the patient's respiratory specimen and the positive water samples were both Lp1, and further testing on sequence type is ongoing. Investigations at this stage suggest that the case is a nosocomial infection.

The DH noted that UCH has conducted disinfection of the water systems concerned. The CHP has provided health advice against LD to hospital staff and inpatients, including those with weakened immunity who should use sterile or boiled water for drinking, teeth brushing and mouth rinsing.

Medical surveillance in the ward to which the patient was admitted has been enhanced in collaboration with UCH and no additional cases have been identified thus far. The CHP will maintain close liaison with UCH to continue its monitoring of the latest developments and epidemiological investigations.

[Government to sell site in Tsuen Wan by public tender](#)

The Lands Department (LandsD) announced today (June 16) that a site,

Tsuen Wan Town Lot No. 430 at Yau Kom Tau, Tsuen Wan, New Territories, in the 2023-24 Land Sale Programme, will be disposed of by public tender. The tender invitation for the lot will commence on June 23 and close on August 18.

Tsuen Wan Town Lot No. 430 has a site area of about 48 673 square metres and is designated for private residential purposes. The minimum gross floor area and the maximum gross floor area are 82 620 sq m and 97 200 sq m respectively. Both exclude the gross floor area of Government Accommodation, being a 50-place day activity centre cum 50-place hostel for severely mentally handicapped persons, to be constructed by the purchaser under the Conditions of Sale. Not less than 1 940 residential units shall be erected within the lot and to implement the Starter Homes for Hong Kong Residents (Starter Homes) project, all the residential units shall be Starter Homes units.

Land sale documents including the Form of Tender, the Tender Notice, the Conditions of Sale and the sale plans of the lot will be available for downloading from the LandsD website (www.landsd.gov.hk) from June 23, while the sale plans will be available for inspection by the public from the same day until the close of the tender. The sale plans in hard copy form may also be purchased at the Survey and Mapping Office of the LandsD, 6/F, North Point Government Offices, 333 Java Road, North Point, Hong Kong, from June 23 until the close of the tender. The particulars of the tender will be gazetted on June 23.

[15 persons arrested during anti-illegal worker operations \(with photos\)](#)

The Immigration Department (ImmD) mounted a series of territory-wide anti-illegal worker operations codenamed "Twilight", and joint operations with the Hong Kong Police Force codenamed "Champion" and "Windsand", for four consecutive days from June 12 to yesterday (June 15). A total of 11 suspected illegal workers, two suspected employers and two overstayers were arrested.

During the anti-illegal worker operations, ImmD Task Force officers raided 29 target locations including a car park, massage parlours, premises under renovation, a recycling shop, residential buildings, restaurants, a retail shop and a wet market. Eight suspected illegal workers and two suspected employers were arrested. The arrested suspected illegal workers comprised four men and four women, aged 31 to 57. Among them, two men and one woman were holders of recognisance forms, which prohibit them from taking any employment. Two men, aged 49 and 63, were suspected of employing the illegal workers and were also arrested.

During operation "Champion", enforcement officers raided 68 target locations in Eastern District, Hung Hom and Kowloon City District, including massage parlours, restaurants and retail shops. Two suspected illegal workers and two overstayers were arrested. The arrested suspected illegal workers comprised one man and one woman, aged 48 and 49. The woman was also suspected of using and being in possession of a forged Hong Kong identity card. Two female overstayers, aged 21 and 23, were arrested. Among them, one suspected illegal worker and two overstayers were handled by the ImmD.

Furthermore, during operation "Windsand", one male Mainland visitor, aged 30, was arrested for breaching his condition of stay by being involved in suspected illegal parallel trading activities near Sheung Shui Cycling Entry/Exit Hub. The goods were daily necessities and electronic products.

An ImmD spokesman said, "Any person who contravenes a condition of stay in force in respect of him or her shall be guilty of an offence. Also, visitors are not allowed to take employment in Hong Kong, whether paid or unpaid, without the permission of the Director of Immigration. Offenders are liable to prosecution and upon conviction face a maximum fine of \$50,000 and up to two years' imprisonment. Aiders and abettors are also liable to prosecution and penalties."

The spokesman warned, "As stipulated in section 38AA of the Immigration Ordinance, an illegal immigrant, a person who is the subject of a removal order or a deportation order, an overstayer or a person who was refused permission to land is prohibited from taking any employment, whether paid or unpaid, or establishing or joining in any business. Offenders are liable upon conviction to a maximum fine of \$50,000 and up to three years' imprisonment. Under the prevailing laws, it is an offence to use or possess a forged Hong Kong identity card or a Hong Kong identity card related to another person. Offenders are liable to prosecution and upon conviction face a maximum fine of \$100,000 and up to 10 years' imprisonment."

The spokesman reiterated that it is a serious offence to employ people who are not lawfully employable. Under the Immigration Ordinance, the maximum penalty for an employer employing a person who is not lawfully employable, i.e. an illegal immigrant, a person who is the subject of a removal order or a deportation order, an overstayer or a person who was refused permission to land, has been significantly increased from a fine of \$350,000 and three years' imprisonment to a fine of \$500,000 and 10 years' imprisonment to reflect the gravity of such offences. The director, manager, secretary, partner, etc, of the company concerned may also bear criminal liability. The High Court has laid down sentencing guidelines that the employer of an illegal worker should be given an immediate custodial sentence.

According to the court sentencing, employers must take all practicable steps to determine whether a person is lawfully employable prior to employment. Apart from inspecting a prospective employee's identity card, the employer has the explicit duty to make enquiries regarding the person and ensure that the answers would not cast any reasonable doubt concerning the lawful employability of the person. The court will not accept failure to do

so as a defence in proceedings. It is also an offence if an employer fails to inspect the job seeker's valid travel document if the job seeker does not have a Hong Kong permanent identity card. Offenders are liable upon conviction to a maximum fine of \$150,000 and to imprisonment for one year. In that connection, the spokesman would like to remind all employers not to defy the law by employing illegal workers. The ImmD will continue to take resolute enforcement action to combat such offences.

Under the existing mechanism, the ImmD will, as a standard procedure, conduct an initial screening of vulnerable persons, including illegal workers, illegal immigrants, sex workers and foreign domestic helpers, who are arrested during any operation with a view to ascertaining whether they are trafficking in persons (TIP) victims. When any TIP indicator is revealed in the initial screening, the ImmD officers will conduct a full debriefing and identification by using a standardised checklist to ascertain the presence of TIP elements, such as threats and coercion in the recruitment phase and the nature of exploitation. Identified TIP victims will be provided with various forms of support and assistance, including urgent intervention, medical services, counselling, shelter or temporary accommodation and other supporting services. The ImmD calls on TIP victims to report crimes to the relevant departments immediately.



[LegCo Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting visits Radio Television Hong Kong \(with photos\)](#)

The following is issued on behalf of the Legislative Council Secretariat:

The Legislative Council Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting visited Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) today (June 16) to enhance Members' understanding of the work of the public service broadcaster.

Members first received a briefing from the Director of Broadcasting, Mr Eddie Cheung, on RTHK's efforts on promoting national security, national identity, better understanding of the country's history, culture and latest developments, as well as government policies. Members learnt that RTHK has been producing various programmes on the Constitution, the Basic Law, national security education and the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, etc, to deepen the public's understanding of the country and the implementation of "one country, two systems".

Members then toured various facilities at Broadcasting House, including radio production studios equipped to broadcast on TV, transportable studios, central control room and music library. They observed video news production facilities when they visited the Chinese and English newsrooms. Members also observed the offices of Radio 3 and Radio 4, which produce English programmes.

Members next toured Television House and visited TV master control rooms, editing rooms, film and video tape library as well TV studios with virtual set, etc.

During the visit, Members also exchanged views with representatives of RTHK on ways to better promote and tell good stories of the country and Hong Kong through the broadcaster, make use of technology to enhance the efficiency of producing programmes and nurture young programme production talents.

Members who joined the visit were the Chairman of the Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting, Dr Junius Ho, and Panel members Ms Elizabeth Quat, Mr Shiu Ka-fai, Ms Yung Hoi-yan, Mr Lam Chun-sing and Mr Tang Fei; as well as non-Panel members Mr Benson Luk and Dr Ngan Man-yu.





[HKMC Annual Report 2022](#)

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

The Hong Kong Mortgage Corporation Limited (HKMC) today (June 16) published its Annual Report for 2022. The Report mainly reviews the business performance, financial position, as well as the environmental, social and governance initiatives of the HKMC in 2022.

The Report is now available on the HKMC website (www.hkmc.com.hk).