

Update on cases of Legionnaires' disease

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health today (June 12) reported the latest number of cases of Legionnaires' disease (LD), and stressed the importance of using and maintaining properly designed man-made water systems, adding that susceptible groups should strictly observe relevant precautions.

From June 4 to 10, four community-acquired LD cases and one imported LD case were reported:

1. A male patient, aged 74 with underlying illnesses, who lives in Yee On Mansion, North Point;
2. A male patient, aged 53 with good past health, who had been to Thailand during the incubation period and was classified as an imported case;
3. A male patient, aged 58 with underlying illnesses, who lives in Fortune Villa, Tsing Chuen Wai Road, Tuen Mun;
4. A female patient, aged 93 with underlying illnesses, who lives in Block 5, The Leighton Hill, Happy Valley; and
5. A male patient, aged 82 with underlying illnesses, who lives in Kiu Hing Mansion, Causeway Bay.

"Epidemiological investigations are ongoing to identify potential sources of infection, high-risk exposure and clusters, if any," a spokesman for the CHP said.

As of June 10, 31 LD cases had been reported this year. In 2022 and 2021, there were 80 and 69 cases respectively.

"Men, people aged over 50, smokers, alcoholics and persons with weakened immunity are more susceptible to LD. Some situations may also increase the risk of infection, including poor maintenance of water systems leading to stagnant water; living in areas with old water systems, cooling towers or fountains; using electric water heaters, whirlpools and spas or hot water spring spas; and recent stays in hotels or vessels," the spokesman said.

Legionellae are found in various environmental settings and grow well in warm water (20 to 45 degrees Celsius). They can be found in aqueous environments such as water tanks, hot and cold water systems, cooling towers, whirlpools and spas, water fountains and home apparatus that support breathing. People may become infected when they breathe in contaminated droplets (aerosols) and mist generated by artificial water systems, or when handling garden soil, compost and potting mixes.

Immunocompromised persons should:

- Use sterile or boiled water for drinking, tooth brushing and mouth rinsing;
- Avoid using humidifiers, or other mist- or aerosol-generating devices. A shower may also generate small aerosols; and
- If using humidifiers, or other mist- or aerosol-generating devices, fill the water tank with only sterile or cooled freshly boiled water, and not water directly from the tap. Also, clean and maintain humidifiers/devices regularly according to manufacturers' instructions. Never leave stagnant water in a humidifier/device. Empty the water tank, wipe all surfaces dry, and change the water daily.

The public should observe the health advice below:

- Observe personal hygiene;
- Do not smoke and avoid alcohol consumption;
- Strainers in water taps and shower heads should be inspected, cleaned, descaled and disinfected regularly or at a frequency recommended by the manufacturer;
- If a fresh-water plumbing system is properly maintained, it is not necessary to install domestic water filters. Use of water filters is not encouraged as clogging occurs easily, which can promote growth of micro-organisms. In case water filters are used, the pore size should be 0.2 micrometres (μm) and the filter needs to be changed periodically according to the manufacturer's recommendations;
- Drain and clean water tanks of buildings at least quarterly;
- Drain or purge for at least one minute infrequently used water outlets (e.g. water taps, shower heads and hot water outlets) and stagnant points of the pipework weekly or before use;
- Seek and follow doctors' professional advice regarding the use and maintenance of home respiratory devices and use only sterile water (not distilled or tap water) to clean and fill the reservoir. Clean and maintain the device regularly according to the manufacturer's instructions. After cleaning/disinfection, rinse the device with sterile water, cooled freshly boiled water or water filtered with 0.2 μm filters. Never leave stagnant water in the device. Empty the water tank, keep all surfaces dry, and change the water daily; and
- When handling garden soil, compost and potting mixes:
 1. Wear gloves and a face mask;
 2. Water gardens and compost gently using low pressure;
 3. Open composted potting mixes slowly and make sure the opening is directed away from the face;
 4. Wet the soil to reduce dust when potting plants; and
 5. Avoid working in poorly ventilated places such as enclosed greenhouses.

The public may visit the CHP's [LD page](#), the [Code of Practice for Prevention of LD](#) and the [Housekeeping Guidelines for Cold and Hot Water Systems for Building Management](#) of the Prevention of LD Committee, and the CHP's [risk-based strategy](#) for prevention and control of LD.

Phase 1 extension project of Tuen Mun Hospital Accident and Emergency Department completed (with photo)

The following is issued on behalf of the Hospital Authority:

The spokesperson of Tuen Mun Hospital announced today (June 12) that the extension of the Accident and Emergency Department (AED), located on the ground floor of the Tuen Mun Hospital Operating Theater Extension Block, will commence service at 8am on June 15 (Thursday). On completion of the entire project, the building area of the new AED will be nearly double that of the existing Department, and patients are expected to have a more comfortable and spacious environment during medical consultations.

The extension part of the AED is designed according to the patient consultation procedure, aiming at making the flow of medical consultations smoother and more convenient. The spokesman said: "The registration and waiting areas are located near the new AED entrance. After registration, patients can proceed to a triage procedure according to instructions. In addition, the waiting area is connected to the consultation area, making the process of seeking a medical consultation more convenient."

Starting from 8am on June 15, the main entrance of the AED will move to the AED extension area (located on the ground floor of the Tuen Mun Hospital Operating Theater Extension Block, adjacent to the Pathology Block). Patients can use the new entrance to access to the AED (see attached photo).

The waiting area of the existing AED, which is currently located in the main block of the hospital, will then undergo renovation work. Emergency services will not be affected during the period of renovation. Upon commencement of the extension part of the AED, there will be a 40 per cent increase in the number of seats in the patient waiting area, together with an increase in the number of triage stations and consultation rooms, which in turn will provide a more spacious environment for patients' consultations.

The spokesperson added, "In addition to the above-mentioned convenient consultation procedures and spacious environment, the AED extension also has a number of new infrastructural features. The new waiting area for patients with fevers for patient treatment cohorts will mitigate the risk of cross infection. Furthermore, toilets in the AED extension are equipped with emergency alarm bells and motion detection alarm systems to further enhance safety."

The hospital has notified the Fire Services Department and various

public transport operators of the relevant arrangements. The hospital has set up notices at the entrances and exits to remind the public of the new entrance of the AED, and the date and time of relocation. For enquiries, members of the public can call 2468 5208 during office hours.



[HAD opens temporary heat shelters](#)

â€‹The Home Affairs Department is opening 19 community halls/community centres as temporary heat shelters today (June 12).

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 –

Sai Ying Pun Community Complex Community Hall
3/F, Sai Ying Pun Community Complex
2 High Street, Sai Ying Pun

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

Southern –
Wah Kwai Community Centre
Wah Kwai Estate, Kellett Bay

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

Kowloon Districts:

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, Sham Shui Po

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 Districts:

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 –
Wu Shan Road Community Hall
101 Wu Shan Road, 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.

Construction output for first quarter of 2023

The total gross value of construction works (GVCW) performed by main contractors in the first quarter of 2023 increased by 7.4% in nominal terms over a year earlier to \$62.6 billion, according to the provisional results of the Quarterly Survey of Construction Output released today (June 12) by the Census and Statistics Department (C&SD).

After discounting the effect of price changes, the provisional results showed that the total GVCW performed by main contractors increased by 8.7% in real terms over the same period. GVCW in real terms is derived by deflating the corresponding nominal value with an appropriate price index to the price level in the base period of 2000.

Analysed by type of construction works, the GVCW performed at private sector sites totalled \$17.0 billion in the first quarter of 2023, up by 18.2% in nominal terms over a year earlier. In real terms, it increased by 17.9%. The GVCW performed at public sector sites slightly increased by 0.5% in nominal terms over a year earlier to \$23.5 billion in the first quarter of 2023. In real terms, it increased by 1.5%.

The GVCW performed by main contractors at locations other than construction sites amounted to \$22.1 billion in the first quarter of 2023, up by 7.9% in nominal terms compared with a year earlier. In real terms, it increased by 9.4%. Construction works at locations other than construction sites included minor new construction activities and decoration, repair and maintenance for buildings; and electrical equipment installation and maintenance works at locations other than construction sites.

Analysed by major end-use group, the GVCW performed at construction sites in respect of residential buildings projects amounted to \$12.5 billion in the first quarter of 2023, up by 16.4% in nominal terms over a year earlier. Over the same period, the GVCW performed at construction sites in respect of transport projects up by 32.4% in nominal terms to \$10.1 billion in the first quarter of 2023.

On a seasonally adjusted quarter-to-quarter basis, the GVCW performed by main contractors increased by 3.0% in nominal terms and 3.6% in real terms in the first quarter of 2023 compared with the fourth quarter of 2022.

Table 1 shows the provisional figures on the GVCW performed by main contractors in the first quarter of 2023. Tables 2 and 3 show the revised figures for the whole year of 2022 and the fourth quarter of 2022 respectively.

Owing to the widespread sub-contracting practices in the construction industry, a construction establishment can be a main contractor for one contract and a sub-contractor for another contract at the same time. The GVCW performed by main contractors covers only those projects in which the construction establishment takes the role of a main contractor, but not projects in which it takes only the role of a sub-contractor. However, sub-contractors' contribution to projects should have been included in the GVCW performed by main contractors for whom they worked.

The classification of construction establishments follows the Hong Kong Standard Industrial Classification Version 2.0, which is used in various economic surveys for classifying economic units into different industry classes.

More detailed statistics are given in the "Report on the Quarterly Survey of Construction Output". Users can browse and download this publication at the website of the C&SD (www.censtatd.gov.hk/en/EIndexbySubject.html?pcode=B1090002&scode=330).

For enquiries about the survey results, please contact the Construction and Miscellaneous Services Statistics Section of the C&SD (Tel: 3903 6965; email: building@censtatd.gov.hk).

Effective Exchange Rate Index

The effective exchange rate index for the Hong Kong dollar on Monday, June 12, 2023 is 103.7 (up 0.2 against last Saturday's index).

â€‹The effective exchange rate index for the Hong Kong dollar on Saturday, June 10, 2023 was 103.5 (same as last Friday's index).