

[Two persons sentenced for breaching compulsory quarantine order or isolation order](#)

Two persons were sentenced by Magistrates' Courts today (December 5) for violating the Prevention and Control of Disease Regulation (Cap. 599A) and the Compulsory Quarantine of Persons Arriving at Hong Kong from Foreign Places Regulation (Cap. 599E) respectively.

The first case involved a 46-year-old woman, who earlier tested positive for COVID-19 and was issued with an isolation order. Before the end of the isolation period, she left the place of isolation on September 12. She was charged with contravening sections 23(1), (3) and (5) of Cap. 599A and was sentenced to a fine of \$2,000 and two weeks' imprisonment, suspended for 12 months by the Shatin Magistrates' Courts today.

The second case involved a 30-year-old woman, who was earlier issued with a compulsory quarantine order stating that she must conduct quarantine at a hotel. Before the expiry of the quarantine order, she left the place of quarantine on April 22, without reasonable excuse nor permission given by an authorised officer. She was charged with contravening sections 8(1) and (5) of Cap. 599E and was fined \$5,000 by the Kowloon City Magistrates' Courts today.

A spokesman for the Department of Health said the sentences send a clear message to the community that breaching a quarantine order or an isolation order is a criminal offence. The Government will not tolerate such a violation and reminds the public again to comply with the relevant regulations. The spokesman reiterated that co-operation of and support by members of the public play a critical role in the anti-epidemic work. They must strictly observe relevant requirements in order to fight the pandemic and minimise the risk of transmission in the community.

[LegCo Public Accounts Committee to hold public hearing tomorrow](#)

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

The Legislative Council (LegCo) Public Accounts Committee (PAC) will hold a public hearing on "Continuing Education Fund" (Chapter 1) of the

Director of Audit's Report No.79 tomorrow (December 6) at 2.30pm in Conference Room 1 of the LegCo Complex.

Eight witnesses have been invited to appear before the above hearing to respond to points raised in the Report and answer questions asked by PAC members.

The programme for the public hearing is as follows:

Subject: Continuing Education Fund (Chapter 1 of the Director of Audit's Report No.79)

Date: December 6 (Tuesday)

Time: 2.30pm

Venue: Conference Room 1

Witnesses:

Mr Chris Sun
Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Mr Stanley Wan
Principal Assistant Secretary for Labour and Welfare (Manpower)

Mr Andrew Tsang
Head, Working Family and Student Financial Assistance Agency

Mr Sunny Yeung
Controller, Student Finance Office, Working Family and Student Financial Assistance Agency

Mr Albert Chow
Executive Director, Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications

Dr Joe Hong
Deputy Executive Director (Academic), Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications

Ms Anna Cheung
Head and Senior Registrar (Academic Accreditation and Assessment), Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications

Ms Virginia Tsin
Registrar (Academic Accreditation and Assessment), Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications

PAC is chaired by Mr Shiu Ka-fai, and its Deputy Chairman is Mr Paul Tse. Other members are Ms Yung Hoi-yan, Mr Luk Chung-hung, Mr Edmund Wong, Mr Louis Loong and Ms Carmen Kan.

Update on supplies from Mainland

The Task Force on Supplies from the Mainland led by the Transport and Logistics Bureau (TLB) has been working closely with the Guangdong Provincial Government and the Shenzhen Municipal People's Government to explore various means to stabilise the supply of goods from the Mainland to Hong Kong.

A spokesperson for the TLB said that the "Sea Express" water transportation service from the Mainland to Hong Kong has been fully launched and its capacity is rising to increase the supplies of fresh food, other daily necessities and manufacturing materials. The current supply of fresh food from the Mainland is stable.

The spokesperson said today (December 5) that Shenzhen operated 181 cargo vessel trips and transported around 15 710 twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs) of cross-boundary supplies by water from December 2 to yesterday (December 4), equivalent to about 85 350 tonnes of goods, of which around 40 TEUs (about 360 tonnes) were fresh food and around 15 670 TEUs (about 84 990 tonnes) were non-fresh food, according to information from the Mainland authorities.

Since the launch of services from the three ports in Shenzhen since February 18 to yesterday, a total of around 1 332 080 TEUs of cross-boundary supplies have been transported, equivalent to about 6 320 600 tonnes of goods, of which around 3 020 TEUs (about 25 540 tonnes) were fresh food and around 1 329 060 TEUs (about 6 295 060 tonnes) were non-fresh food.

Meanwhile, to avoid a spillover of the epidemic, the Transport Department (TD) arranges for dedicated staff to conduct rapid nucleic acid tests, using nasopharyngeal swabs for specimen collection, for cross-boundary goods vehicle drivers at various land boundary control points. Only drivers with a negative result are allowed to enter the Mainland. A total of 9 633 rapid nucleic acid tests were conducted for the period from December 2 to yesterday, among which eight cases that tested preliminarily positive were found. The TD has passed the cases to the Department of Health for follow-up.

The TLB will closely monitor the situation and co-operate with the Mainland authorities to facilitate and implement various measures to ensure both smooth cross-boundary land transport and a stable goods supply to Hong Kong, while reducing the risk of epidemic transmission in both the Mainland and Hong Kong.

Update on cases of Legionnaires' disease

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health today (December 5) 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 November 27 to December 3, one community-acquired LD case was reported. The case involved a male patient aged 68 with underlying illnesses, who lives in Hong Fu Mansion, To Kwa Wan.

"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 December 3, 77 LD cases had been reported this year. In 2021 and 2020, there were 69 and 104 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.

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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.

â€‹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.

[Phishing emails related to Mega International Commercial Bank Co.,](#)

Ltd.

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

The Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA) wishes to alert members of the public to a press release issued by Mega International Commercial Bank Co., Ltd. relating to phishing emails, which have been reported to the HKMA. A hyperlink to the press release is available on the [HKMA website](#).

The HKMA wishes to remind the public that banks will not send SMS or emails with embedded hyperlinks which direct them to the banks' websites to carry out transactions. They will not ask customers for sensitive personal information, such as login passwords or one-time password, by phone, email or SMS (including via embedded hyperlinks).

Anyone who has provided his or her personal information, or who has conducted any financial transactions, through or in response to the emails concerned, should contact the bank using the contact information provided in the press release, and report the matter to the Police by contacting the Crime Wing Information Centre of the Hong Kong Police Force at 2860 5012.