

Special traffic and transport arrangements for 2022 Chief Executive Election in Wan Chai North

The Transport Department (TD) today (May 6) reminded the public that special traffic and transport arrangements will be implemented in Wan Chai North to facilitate the holding of the 2022 Chief Executive Election on May 8 (Sunday). Details are as follows:

Road closure

The slip road leading from the Central-Wan Chai Bypass to Expo Drive will be temporarily closed from 7am to 6pm on May 8. Motorists are advised to use Man Po Street, Yiu Sing Street and Lung Wo Road for journeys to Wan Chai North.

Public transport services

(1) The terminal point for cross-harbour bus route No. 961 at Expo Drive East will be relocated to Wan Chai North Temporary Public Transport Interchange from 0.30am to 10pm on May 8. New World First Bus route Nos. 18 and N8P, and cross-harbour bus route Nos. 905, 961 and 978, will be temporarily diverted from 5am on May 8. Due to bus route diversion, bus stops on Harbour Road westbound, Lung Wui Road and Harbour Road eastbound outside the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre will be suspended from 5am to 9pm on May 8, and temporary bus stops on Gloucester Road will be provided to facilitate passengers' boarding and alighting; and

(2) The taxi stands at Expo Drive and Harbour Road will be suspended from 0.30am to 10pm on May 8. The taxi stand and taxi drop-off point at Harbour View Street will be suspended from 0.30am to 7pm on May 8.

The TD anticipates that the traffic in the vicinity of Wan Chai North will become busier. Motorists should avoid driving to the affected areas. In case of traffic congestion, they should exercise tolerance and patience, follow the Police's instructions and be alert to the latest traffic news through the media.

The public transport operators will display notices to inform passengers of the temporary arrangements. Commuters using public transport are advised to pay attention to the arrangements of route diversions and suspension and relocation of stops. The TD and the Police will closely monitor the traffic situation and implement appropriate measures whenever necessary.

For details on the special traffic and transport arrangements, members of the public can browse the TD's website (www.td.gov.hk) or mobile application "HKeMobility".

Full implementation of new regulatory regime of travel industry on September 1

The new regulatory regime of the travel industry will be implemented in full from September 1 this year. The Government gazetted today (May 6) the following seven pieces of subsidiary legislation made for the full implementation of the new regulatory regime:

- (i) Travel Industry Ordinance (Commencement) Notice 2022;
- (ii) Travel Industry (Authority Levy – Percentage of Outbound Fare) Notice;
- (iii) Travel Industry (Compensation Fund Levy – Percentage of Outbound Fare) Notice;
- (iv) Travel Industry (Collection, Payment and Recording of Levies) Regulation;
- (v) Travel Industry Compensation Fund (Amount of Ex Gratia Payments) Regulation;
- (vi) Travel Industry Compensation Fund (Procedure for Ex Gratia Payments) Regulation;
- (vii) Travel Industry (General) Regulation.

The Travel Industry Ordinance (Cap. 634) (TIO) was passed by the Legislative Council (LegCo) in November 2018. Some of the provisions were brought into operation and the Travel Industry Authority (TIA) was established as a statutory regulatory body according to the relevant provisions in January 2020. The remaining provisions will be implemented together with the above-mentioned seven pieces of subsidiary legislation.

A spokesman for the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau said, "Since its establishment, the TIA has been actively taking forward preparatory work for the full implementation of the new regulatory regime of the travel industry, and conducted a trade consultation on the implementation details including the subsidiary legislation from February to April this year. In summary, the trade generally expected an early and smooth transition to the new regulatory regime.

"The pieces of subsidiary legislation were made in accordance with the framework of the TIO, and reflect the views raised by the trade during the trade consultation as well as the consensus of the TIA after its detailed study and discussion. The legislative proposal was supported by the LegCo Panel on Economic Development."

Among the seven pieces of subsidiary legislation, the Travel Industry Ordinance (Commencement) Notice 2022 (Notice) appointed July 4, 2022, as the implementation day for the provisions of the TIO related to transition, and

September 1, 2022, as the implementation day for the remaining provisions that are not yet operational. In accordance with the Notice, the TIA can commence the transitional work with the Travel Agents Registry under the Tourism Commission, the Travel Industry Council of Hong Kong and the Travel Industry Compensation Fund Management Board from July 4, 2022, and take over the statutory functions and responsibilities such as licensing, regulation of the industry, administration of the Travel Industry Compensation Fund (TICF) and imposition of levies on travel agents on September 1, 2022. Before the full implementation of the new regulatory regime, the existing regulatory regime for the travel industry continues to operate.

The remaining six pieces of subsidiary legislation are related to the various implementation details of the new regulatory regime, including specifying the levies to be paid by licensed travel agents to the TIA and the TICF to be maintained at 0.15 per cent and 0 per cent of each outbound fare respectively; prescribing adoption of the current E-levy System for the collection, payment and recording of levies under the new regulatory regime; prescribing the detailed arrangements such as the amount and procedure for the ex gratia payment under the TICF; and matters such as prescribing the licence conditions and general requirements imposed on licensed travel agents among others.

The seven pieces of subsidiary legislation will be tabled in the LegCo for negative vetting on May 11, 2022.

The spokesman said, "Following the implementation of relevant provisions of the TIO and the above-mentioned subsidiary legislation, the new regulatory system for the travel industry will be fully implemented. The Government expects that the new regime would further enhance the professionalism of the travel industry, and promote the long-term healthy development of the industry."

General out-patient clinic service arrangements on day following Buddha's Birthday

The following is issued on behalf of the Hospital Authority:

The Hospital Authority (HA) spokesperson today (May 6) announced that due to the activation of some general out-patient clinics (GOPCs) as designated clinics for confirmed cases of COVID-19, six GOPCs (see table below) will provide public holiday GOPC services on the day following the Birthday of the Buddha (May 9). Members of the public are reminded to make an advance booking for an appointment either through the telephone appointment

system as usual or the "Book GOPC" function on the "HA Go" mobile application.

The spokesperson remarked that the 23 designated clinics for confirmed cases of COVID-19 will also operate during the public holiday to help provide treatment for confirmed patients in the community presenting with relatively mild symptoms of infection, especially high risk patients, requiring medical advice and treatment to soothe their symptoms. These patients can make an appointment with a designated clinic either through calling the selected designated clinic (i.e. general booking telephone line or "care booking line") during the booking and service hours or using the "Book DC" function on the "HA Go" mobile application.

The spokesperson reminded the public that the Emergency Response Level has been activated in public hospitals and infection control measures have been enhanced with universal masking for all persons entering public hospitals and clinics. The public should continue to stay vigilant during the holiday. They should maintain personal and environmental hygiene to prevent infection and spreading of the virus in the community. The public should seek medical advice early for respiratory symptoms. Moreover, members of the public should also receive COVID-19 vaccination as early as possible.

Members of the public can obtain specimen collection packs for COVID-19 tests during the holiday or submit specimens at three GOPCs (see table below) within the specified time. The public can also obtain specimen collection packs at selected post offices or MTR stations. For details, please visit the website: www.coronavirus.gov.hk/eng/early-testing.html.

GOPC service arrangements on the day following the Birthday of the Buddha (May 9)

District	List of GOPCs	Address	Telephone number for booking	General enquiries
Kowloon	Kwun Tong Community Health Centre	UG/F, 60 Hip Wo Street, Kwun Tong	3157 0687	2389 0331
	Our Lady of Maryknoll Hospital Family Medicine Clinic	G/F, Out-patient Block, Our Lady of Maryknoll Hospital, 118 Shatin Pass Road, Wong Tai Sin	3157 0118	2354 2267

New Territories	Lady Trench General Out-patient Clinic	213 Sha Tsui Road, Tsuen Wan, N.T.	3157 0107	2614 4789
	Shek Wu Hui Jockey Club General Out-patient Clinic*	G/F, 108-130 Jockey Club Road, Shek Wu Hui, Sheung Shui	3157 0965	2670 0211
	Tuen Mun Clinic*	11 Tsing Yin Street, San Hui, Tuen Mun	3543 0886	2452 9111
	Yuen Long Jockey Club Health Centre*	269 Castle Peak Road, Yuen Long	3543 5007	2443 8511

Service hours:

9am to 1pm and 2pm to 5pm

*General out-patient clinics to distribute specimen collection packs and collect specimens for COVID-19 tests

Specimen collection packs distribution time: from 9am (while stocks last)

Specimen collection time: 9am to 11am

[Government announces latest situation of fresh food supply from Mainland](#)

A Government spokesman announced today (May 6) that the supply of fresh food from the Mainland yesterday (May 5) was sufficient and stable.

According to the latest information, the quantity of vegetables supplied from the Mainland to Hong Kong yesterday (as of midnight) by land and water transportation was about 2 600 tonnes, comparable to the average daily supply from the Mainland on a normal day. The volume of vegetables supplied from the Mainland to Hong Kong sold through the wholesale markets of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) and the Vegetable Marketing Organization was about 813 tonnes. The average wholesale prices of choi sum and pak choi stood at \$7.50 and \$6.20 per catty respectively yesterday, largely comparable to the levels of a normal day. The supply of eggs to the wholesale market remained steady, with the average daily supply standing at over 3.2 million for the past week, comparable to the average daily supply on a normal day last year.

The total supply of chilled meat from the Mainland yesterday was about 40 tonnes. The supply of live pigs was plentiful.

The supply of chilled poultry from the Mainland was over 180 000 head yesterday, and about 8 000 live chickens were slaughtered locally. The supply was abundant.

Regarding the rice supply, in compliance with the requirement by the Government, stockholders of rice have to maintain the reserve stock of rice at a level sufficient for consumption by the local population for 15 days. The trade generally stocks double the required amount, which is sufficient for one month's consumption by Hong Kong citizens. In recent years, the import and consumption of rice in Hong Kong has stood at a steady level of around 320 000 to 330 000 tonnes per year. The import quantity (including reserve stock) as of end-March 2022 was 27 300 tonnes. Suppliers also maintain a reserve for food that can be stored, such as frozen meat, for around three months' stock generally.

The Government will continue to maintain close liaison with the Mainland authorities and major food suppliers to ensure a stable food supply.

The AFCD updates and publishes the fresh food supply information daily. Members of the public may visit the AFCD website for updates on daily supplies and wholesale prices of fresh food (www.afcd.gov.hk/english/agriculture/agr_fresh/agr_fresh.html).

Hong Kong Property Review 2022 **available online**

The Rating and Valuation Department today (May 6) released online the Hong Kong Property Review 2022, which contains statistics and commentaries on the local property market in 2021 as well as forecast completions in 2022 and 2023.

The full contents of the publication are available for free viewing and downloading through www.rvd.gov.hk/en/publications/hkpr.html.

Further enquiries can be directed to the department by contacting the Technical Secretary (Information) at 2150 8807.