

Liquor Licensing Board to meet on Tuesday

The following is issued on behalf of the Liquor Licensing Board:

The Liquor Licensing Board (LLB) will meet on Tuesday (June 8) to consider an application for renewal of a liquor licence.

The application is:

New Territories:

"Timely Refreshments" in Tseung Kwan O

The meeting will be held at 9.45am in the conference room, Room 102, 1/F, 258 Queen's Road East, Wan Chai. In response to the latest developments of COVID-19, to avoid the gathering of people in an enclosed environment and to safeguard the health of all participants, only limited public seats will be available on a first-come, first-served basis for all open hearings of the LLB in the interim.

Health risk category for Air Quality Health Index may reach "Serious" level

The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) has recorded higher than normal pollution levels since yesterday (June 5). According to the EPD's forecast, it is expected that the Air Quality Health Index (AQHI) at some general and roadside air quality monitoring stations may reach the "Serious" level later today (June 6).

Hong Kong is under the influence of a high-pollution background airstream. The weather today is mainly fine with light winds. Light wind hindered the effective dispersion of air pollutants. The sunshine enhanced photochemical smog activity and the rapid formation of ozone and fine particulates in the Pearl River Delta region. The high level of ozone has also promoted the formation of nitrogen dioxide.

According to the Hong Kong Observatory, a broad trough of low pressure will bring unsettled weather in the following few days. It is expected that air quality levels will improve by then.

With a health risk category in the "Very High" or "Serious" levels, children, the elderly and persons with existing heart or respiratory

illnesses are advised to reduce physical exertion and outdoor activities to a minimum or avoid such activities. The general public are advised to reduce, or reduce to a minimum, outdoor physical exertion, and to reduce time staying outdoors, especially in areas with heavy traffic. As health effects of air pollutants may vary for individuals, persons who are in doubt or experience discomfort should seek advice from health-care professionals. The public may visit the Centre for Health Protection's website (www.chp.gov.hk/en/content/9/460/3557.html) for more information on the health effects of air pollution and relevant health advice.

The Education Bureau (EDB) urges all schools to visit the EDB website for appropriate measures to safeguard students' health and take note of changes in the index. The relevant hyperlink is as follows:
www.edb.gov.hk/en/sch-admin/admin/about-activities/sch-activities-guidelines/index.html.

When the AQHI is at the "Very High" level, employers of outdoor workers performing heavy manual work are advised to assess the risk of outdoor work and take appropriate preventive measures to protect the health of their employees such as reducing outdoor physical exertion and the time of their stay outdoors, especially in areas with heavy traffic. At the "Serious" level, employers of all outdoor workers are advised to assess the risk of outdoor work and take appropriate preventive measures to protect the health of their employees.

Members of the public can check the current AQHI readings at the EPD's website (www.aqhi.gov.hk/en.html) or by calling the hotline 2827 8541.

Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement between Hong Kong and Mexico to enter into force on June 16

The Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement (IPPA) between Hong Kong and Mexico will enter into force on June 16. The IPPA with Mexico will enhance the confidence of investors, expand investment flows between Hong Kong and Mexico, and further strengthen bilateral economic and trade ties.

"The 14th Five-Year Plan supports Hong Kong to foster co-operation and exchanges with countries and regions around the world. Indeed, the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government has been making full use of Hong Kong's advantages under the Basic Law and 'one country, two systems', and has signed bilateral agreements, including IPPAs, with foreign economies to explore more opportunities for developing bilateral and multilateral co-operation benefits for Hong Kong," the Secretary for Commerce and Economic

Development, Mr Edward Yau, said.

Mr Yau added that the IPPA with Mexico is the fourth such agreement that the HKSAR Government has signed this term. The other three were signed respectively with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), Australia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), all of which have entered into force. Taking into account the IPPA with Mexico, the total number of IPPAs in force between Hong Kong and foreign economies will increase to 22, covering 31 foreign economies.

Under the IPPA with Mexico, the two sides undertake to provide investors of the other side with fair, equitable and non-discriminatory treatment of investments; compensation in the event of expropriation of investments; and the right to free transfers abroad of investments and returns. The IPPA also provides for settlement of investment disputes under internationally accepted rules, including arbitration.

The 31 foreign economies with which Hong Kong has signed IPPAs are the 10 ASEAN Member States, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Chile, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Korea, Kuwait, Luxembourg, Mexico, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Sweden, Switzerland, the UAE and the United Kingdom.

[Government gazettes compulsory testing notice](#)

The Government exercised the power under the Prevention and Control of Disease (Compulsory Testing for Certain Persons) Regulation (Cap. 599J) and published in the Gazette a compulsory testing notice, which requires any person who had been present at 13 specified premises during the specified period (persons subject to compulsory testing) to undergo a COVID-19 nucleic acid test.

Since a preliminary positive case involving N501Y mutant strain recorded today (June 5) had been present at 13 specified premises, relevant persons are required to undergo compulsory testing.

Details of the compulsory testing notice are in Annex 1.

Subsequent to the announcement by the Centre for Health Protection (CHP) on the updated quarantine arrangements of local COVID-19 cases with the N501Y mutant strain, persons who resided or worked within the same building as the residence of relevant cases and had been released from the quarantine centres will be subject to compulsory testing on the third, seventh, 12th and 19th day counting from the announcement of the relevant confirmed case by the

Department of Health (DH). Relevant persons have to undergo testing on specified dates. They will also be required to undergo self-monitoring until the 21st day (see the details of the buildings and dates of testing at www.coronavirus.gov.hk/pdf/CTN_Specified_premises_and_Dates_of_Testing.pdf).

In accordance with the compulsory testing notice issued earlier, all household members of close contacts are required to undergo compulsory testing. Any person who had lived with a person placed under quarantine pursuant to section 22 of the Prevention and Control of Disease Regulation (Cap. 599A) (person under quarantine) in the same residential unit on the date of commencement of quarantine or during the 14 days before that day, and who becomes aware of the quarantine of the person under quarantine when the relevant quarantine has not yet been completed, has to undergo testing within two days of him or her becoming aware that the person under quarantine has been placed under quarantine and report to the Government the result of the test by phone (6275 6901), fax (2530 5872) or email (ct@csb.gov.hk) within three days of undergoing the test.

Persons who have completed a COVID-19 vaccination course would be taken to have complied with the requirements set out in the compulsory testing notices and hence are not required to undergo compulsory testing. Completion of the vaccination course in general means having received two doses of COVID-19 vaccine 14 days ago.

Currently, there are a total of 21 community testing centres (CTCs) providing testing services for the public, including free service for persons subject to compulsory testing. Booking and walk-in services are available. Members of the public only need to provide simple personal information on the 24-hour booking system (www.communitytest.gov.hk/en). The system was enhanced to show the booking status of the centres for the coming two weeks to facilitate the public's planning and selection of a suitable testing centre and a time slot for testing. The testing centres will accord priority to serve individuals with advance bookings. The number of tests available for appointments at CTCs has been increased to over 46 000 per day, and additional manpower has been deployed to serve the public. As of 6pm today, there were around 36 000 booking places available for tomorrow (June 6) at the CTCs, and around 87 per cent and 92 per cent availability for booking places for the coming seven days and 14 days respectively. Members of the public may call the testing centres for enquiries on the availability of bookings or walk-in quotas before visiting the centres.

Outdoor mobile specimen collection stations will be closed if Strong Wind Signal No. 3 or Red Rainstorm Warning Signal is hoisted while all mobile specimen collection stations together with all community testing centres will be closed when No. 8 Gale or Storm Signal or higher, or Black Rainstorm Warning Signal is hoisted.

Coupled with the 21 CTCs, there will be a total of 36 CTCs/mobile specimen collection stations in various districts tomorrow to provide free service for persons subject to compulsory testing. The testing capacity

should be sufficient to meet the demand. The opening dates and operating hours of the mobile specimen collection stations in various districts providing free COVID-19 nucleic acid testing services for the general public are stated in Annex 2. Persons subject to compulsory testing and those with the "LeaveHomeSafe" COVID-19 exposure notification or SMS notification from the CHP reminding them to undergo testing as soon as possible may receive free testing at CTCs or mobile specimen collection stations (if the service scope is applicable).

Persons subject to compulsory testing may choose to undergo testing via the following routes:

1. To visit any of the mobile specimen collection stations (see the list and target groups (if applicable) at www.coronavirus.gov.hk/eng/early-testing.html) for testing;
2. To attend any of the CTCs (see the list at www.communitytest.gov.hk/en);
3. To obtain a deep throat saliva specimen collection pack from any of the 121 post offices, vending machines set up at 20 MTR stations or 47 designated general outpatient clinics (GOPCs) of the Hospital Authority and return the specimen to one of the designated specimen collection points (see the distribution points and times, and the specimen collection points and times, at www.coronavirus.gov.hk/eng/early-testing.html);
4. To undergo testing at any of the GOPCs of the Hospital Authority as instructed by a medical professional of the Hospital Authority;
5. To self-arrange testing provided by private laboratories which are recognised by the DH and can issue SMS notifications in respect of test results (see the list at www.coronavirus.gov.hk/pdf/List_of_recognised_laboratories RTPCR.pdf);
6. To use a specimen bottle distributed to the relevant specified premises by the CHP (if applicable), and return the specimen bottle with the sample collected as per relevant guidelines or
7. (Only applicable to item 13 of Annex 1) To undergo testing at any medical facilities of the Hospital Authority as instructed by a medical professional of the Hospital Authority.

A spokesman for the Food and Health Bureau cautioned that unless otherwise specified above, testing received at the Accident and Emergency Departments of the Hospital Authority or during hospital stays, or testing provided by private laboratories which cannot issue SMS notifications in respect of test results, does not comply with the requirements of the aforementioned compulsory testing notice.

"If persons subject to compulsory testing have symptoms, they should seek medical attention immediately and undergo testing as instructed by a medical professional. They should not attend the mobile specimen collection stations or the CTCs."

Persons subject to compulsory testing must keep the SMS notifications containing the result of the test for checking by a law enforcement officer when the officer requires the persons to provide information about their undergoing the specified test.

Furthermore, persons subject to testing under the compulsory testing notices should, as far as reasonably practicable, take appropriate personal disease prevention measures including wearing a mask and maintaining hand hygiene, and, unless for the purpose of undergoing the specified test, stay at their place of residence and avoid going out until the test result is ascertained as far as possible.

Any enquiries on compulsory testing arrangements may be addressed to the hotline at 6275 6901, which operates daily from 9am to 6pm. If persons subject to compulsory testing plan to conduct testing at any of the CTCs, they can check the centre's appointment status in advance. The hotlines of the CTCs are available at www.communitytest.gov.hk/en/info.

The Government will continue to trace possibly infected persons who had been to the relevant premises, and seriously verify whether they had complied with the testing notices. Any person who fails to comply with the testing notices commits an offence and may be fined a fixed penalty of \$5,000. The person would also be issued with a compulsory testing order requiring him or her to undergo testing within a specified time frame. Failure to comply with the order is an offence and the offender would be liable to a fine at level 4 (\$25,000) and imprisonment for six months.

Relevant officers of different government departments are empowered to perform certain functions under the relevant Regulations under the Prevention and Control of Disease Ordinance (Cap. 599), including requesting individuals to provide information and assistance when necessary. Any person who fails to comply with the relevant request commits an offence and would be liable to a fine at level 3 (\$10,000). Collection and use of any personal data for conducting COVID-19 tests must meet the requirements under the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance (Cap. 486). Government departments or testing service providers which handle the relevant information may provide the data to the DH or other relevant departments for anti-epidemic purposes as necessary. The workflow does not involve the provision of any personal data to organisations or persons outside Hong Kong.

The spokesman said, "The Government urges all individuals who are in doubt about their own health conditions, or individuals with infection risks (such as individuals who visited places with epidemic outbreaks or contacted confirmed cases), to undergo testing promptly for early identification of infected persons."

[SCED attends APEC virtual Ministers Responsible for Trade Meeting \(with](#)

photos)

The Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development, Mr Edward Yau, attended the virtual Ministers Responsible for Trade (MRT) Meeting of Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) 2021 tonight (June 5) and spoke on areas of work to which APEC could contribute in conquering the twin battle against the COVID-19 pandemic and the economic crisis brought about by the pandemic.

Speaking at the session on responding to the COVID-19 crisis, Mr Yau first highlighted the value and contributions of trade in ensuring the efficient flow and distribution of vaccines and related goods during this crisis period. He said Hong Kong fully supports APEC's timely statements on COVID-19 Vaccine Supply Chains and Services to Support the Movement of Essential Goods.

He then stressed the importance of restoring cross-border travel as a crucial way to support economic recovery and revitalise hard-hit sectors like the travel industries. He said it would be incumbent upon APEC, being an incubator of ideas in the region, to drive dialogues and encourage policy co-ordination, adding that Hong Kong would stand ready to collaborate with other APEC member economies in advancing relevant initiatives while balancing public health considerations.

Thirdly, as digital transformation has become a prerequisite to post-COVID recovery, Mr Yau urged member economies to leverage digitalisation to drive structural reforms and reduce costs of doing business. He said that APEC should strive to narrow the digital divide and support businesses to cope with the structural changes and tap the digital trade opportunities.

On free and open trade, Mr Yau called on member economies to support the rules-based multilateral trading system (MTS) and deepen regional economic integration towards the eventual realisation of the Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific. He said that high-quality regional free trade agreements would bring tangible economic benefits and strengthen the foundation of the regional economy.

"Hong Kong is grateful for the positive response of Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) participating economies towards Hong Kong's proposed accession, and looks forward to commencing formal dialogues on its early accession when RCEP is ready to take on new partners," he added.

Mr Yau also spoke at another session on how APEC can build momentum towards achieving concrete results at the upcoming 12th Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization.

Chaired by the Minister for Trade and Export Growth of New Zealand, Mr Damien O'Connor, the virtual MRT meeting today was the first ministerial-level meeting of APEC this year. Participating ministers exchanged views on economic and trade policies to facilitate recovery from COVID-19 and

reaffirmed their commitment to the MTS.

Prior to the MRT meeting, Mr Yau also joined other APEC trade ministers last night (June 4) in the APEC Business Advisory Council Dialogue to gauge views from the business sector on regional economic integration, the economic response to COVID-19 and how member economies can be made more resilient to withstand future shocks.

