

Missing man in Kowloon City located

A man who went missing in Kowloon City has been located.

Wong Man-shun, Gary, aged 45, went missing after he left a caring home on Prince Edward Road West on May 1 morning. Staff of the caring home made a report to Police on the same day.

The man was located on Canton Road in Yau Ma Tei this afternoon (May 5). He sustained no injuries and no suspicious circumstances were detected.

Commissioner for Labour reminds cleaning workers to take precautions against heat stroke (with photos)

The Commissioner for Labour, Mr Chris Sun, visited cleaning workers on the job in Wan Chai today (May 5), reminding them to take appropriate precautions to prevent heat stroke when working in the heat of summer.

The visit is part of a six-month-long large-scale promotional campaign on heat stroke prevention launched by the Labour Department (LD) and the Occupational Safety and Health Council (OSHC) in April for raising employers' and employees' awareness of heat stroke prevention. The major activity of the campaign is to visit various workplaces with a higher risk of heat stroke, and distribute cooling products to frontline workers, while sharing relevant safety information.

Accompanied by the representatives of the OSHC and Hong Kong Environmental Services, Logistics and Cleaning Employees Association, Mr Sun presented the workers with gift bags for heat stroke prevention. He took the opportunity to remind them to drink plenty of water, wear a wide-brimmed hat and use cooling products to help with heat dissipation when working in very hot weather. The gift bag contained a portable waist fan, a cooling towel, a pair of sun-protection arm sleeves, a water bottle and an information card on preventing heat stroke.

"Workers may feel sick if they work in a hot or humid environment for prolonged periods of time. Severe cases may even present with signs of heat stroke, such as convulsions, mental confusion and loss of consciousness. Heat stroke can be fatal. Employers have a duty to take adequate preventive measures to effectively safeguard workers from heat stroke," Mr Sun said.

To enhance workers' awareness of heat stroke and encourage their adoption of related preventive measures, the LD and the OSHC have recently launched the Portable Waist Fan Sponsorship Scheme for SMEs to sponsor small and medium-sized enterprises in specified industries to buy portable waist fans at a discounted price. The fan is small in size. Mounted on the waist, the fan delivers cool air under the clothing and helps to dissipate heat. Requiring no hands for its operation, the fan allows the worker to work freely. Details of the related application can be found at www.oshc.org.hk/eng/main/news/SME_fan.

In addition to promotional visits to workplaces, other activities of this year's promotional campaign include organising health talks and conducting extensive publicity on different platforms.



[LCQ9: Police officers and their family members being mistreated](#)

Following is a question by the Hon Jeffrey Lam and a written reply by the Secretary for Security, Mr John Lee, in the Legislative Council today (May 5):

Question:

It has been reported that since the eruption in June 2019 of the movement of opposition to the proposed legislative amendments, incidents of police officers and their family members being mistreated have happened time and again. For instance, some healthcare workers in public hospitals deliberately inflicted greater pain on police officers when treating their wounds, and some children of police officers were bullied by their teachers and classmates in schools. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council:

(1) of the number of related complaints received by the authorities since

June 2019, with a breakdown by the type of organisations (e.g. schools and hospitals) involved in the complaints;

(2) of the details of the follow-up actions taken by the authorities in respect of such complaints, including whether any teachers and healthcare workers under complaint have been punished;

(3) of the new measures in place to provide assistance for the police officers and their family members who have been mistreated (e.g. assisting in school transfer, and providing additional allowances or medical insurance for them to switch to using private healthcare services); and

(4) whether it will set up a dedicated task force to follow up on such complaints, and render assistance to the police officers and their family members concerned; if not, of the reasons for that?

Reply:

President,

Since the outbreak of acts of serious violence, "Hong Kong independence" and riots that prevailed in the latter half of 2019, there have been complaints from police officers about them and their family members being bullied or unfairly treated at schools and public hospitals. The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) is deeply concerned about this. The Hong Kong Police Force (HKPF) has also immediately established mechanisms with relevant organisations and bureaux/ departments to reflect and refer such cases, and provided necessary assistance to the colleagues concerned.

According to the information provided by the Education Bureau (EDB), the Food and Health Bureau (FHB) and the HKPF, my reply to the Hon Jeffrey Lam's question is as follows:

Bullying in Schools

As at end-March 2021, the EDB has received 25 complaints/ requests for assistance concerning bullying of police officers' children in schools. According to the EDB, the majority of the cases (16 out of 25) related to disharmony in speeches and relationship among the students, while the remaining cases involved suspected bullying of students by teachers.

As regards the aforementioned cases received, the EDB said that the schools have handled them in accordance with the guidelines issued by the EDB and provided emotional support and counselling to the students affected, as well as explained the incidents to the parents concerned. For complaints that were substantiated after investigations, the schools have taken disciplinary action against the teachers/ students involved.

According to the EDB, it has been adopting a zero tolerance policy on any act of bullying in schools. The Bureau has reminded schools to pay extra

attention from time to time to the emotional wellness of the students who are particularly vulnerable to bullying (including children of police officers during the times of violent riots), and how they get along with other students, so as to provide timely support and take necessary follow-up actions. As regards acts of bullying among students, schools should immediately stop such improper act, re-evaluate the situation of students involved and provide appropriate assistance. Schools should guide their students to have self-reflection and work on ways to solve the problem, with the aim of preventing the recurrence of such incidents. If necessary, schools will arrange counselling staff to assist the children being bullied, or further enlist the help of professionals, such as social workers and psychologists, to provide support and mediation services so as to safeguard their psychological health while preventing them from being hurt again.

As regards cases involving teachers, the EDB advised that it takes every one of them seriously, same as other suspected cases of misconduct of teachers, to protect the well-being of the children of police officers, so as to ensure that they can learn and grow happily in a healthy and peaceful campus environment. For any substantiated case, the EDB will consider the gravity of each case and take appropriate action against the teacher concerned. Actions may include issuing an advisory, warning or reprimand letter, or even cancellation of teacher registration in accordance with the Education Ordinance.

Complaints against Medical Services

According to the FHB, as a public healthcare service provider, the Hospital Authority (HA) has the responsibility to provide professional and equitable healthcare services for the public, and has reminded its staff to avoid leading to misperception from patients that public hospitals could not adhere to the code of conduct for healthcare professionals because of difference in stances or background, even to the extent of affecting public hospital services. The HA has put in place an established mechanism to handle disciplinary matters of its staff. Disciplinary actions taken are not confined to cases relating to complaints on medical services. The HA will consider the seriousness of the incidents and take appropriate disciplinary actions, including counselling, verbal or written warnings, and dismissal for cases of gross misconduct.

According to the FHB, as at end-March 2021, the HA has received 43 complaint cases referred by the HKPF. These complaints mainly concern issues of operational arrangements, staff attitude or communication. The HA has conducted investigations on the cases in accordance with the established procedures, and has completed following up on 42 of them with replies issued. The HA is following up on the remaining case. The HA has reminded its staff in respect of professional attitude as well as communications with patients or members of the public, and handled individual cases involving breach of discipline in accordance with its established personnel procedures.

Communication Mechanisms and Other Support

Regarding the bullying of police officers' children in schools, the management of the HKPF and the EDB have established a reporting mechanism for handling and following up on such cases with a view to safeguarding the safety of police officers' children. As necessary, the HKPF management has provided full assistance to arrange school transfer for the police officers' children being bullied. For any request of school transfer made by the parents, the EDB will first understand the parents' concerns and need, and encourage them to work with the schools to help their children face and cope with the problems of bullying. Besides, the parents will have to be aware of the potential issues of school transfer that might have on their children. For instance, the children may have to adapt to a new learning environment. If the parents still consider it more appropriate for their children to have the school transfer, the EDB will provide all necessary assistance in accordance with the established mechanism. According to the EDB, as regards police parents who have requested school transfer for their children, they are satisfied with the school transfer arrangement, with some preferring their children to remain in the original school after communication with schools.

The HKPF and the HA have set up a two-tier communication platform to improve the mechanism of communication regarding provision of medical services between both sides since the outbreak of the violent riots in 2019. At the headquarters level, management of the HKPF and the HA meet regularly to exchange views on policy issues. At the district level, representatives of the police districts/ divisions can reach out to the hospital representatives of the district directly on various matters for instant communication and handling.

Besides, the HKPF has put in place a mechanism to provide welfare and support services to the colleagues and their families in need, including providing assistance in seeking private healthcare services to injured/sick colleagues according to their wish. Besides, the Psychological Services Group of the HKPF also offers a range of psychological counselling and support services to police officers and their families who are in need or affected, providing them a channel to alleviate their emotions.

The Government reiterates that these instances of police officers' children being bullied and police officers being unfairly treated are absolutely unacceptable. All departments and organisations concerned have to handle each and every complaint seriously. For cases involving teachers or medical staff which are found to be substantiated, their professional misconduct will be followed up seriously.

[CHP investigates outbreak of upper](#)

respiratory tract infection at kindergarten

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health is today (May 5) investigating an outbreak of upper respiratory tract infection (URTI) at a kindergarten in Sheung Shui, and appeals to members of the public and staff of institutions to stay alert and maintain strict personal and environmental hygiene.

The outbreak involves 13 boys and seven girls aged 3 to 6. They developed cough, runny nose and fever since April 22. Seventeen of them sought medical attention and none required hospitalisation. All of them are now in a stable condition.

Officers of the CHP have advised the kindergarten to adopt necessary infection control measures against respiratory infections. The kindergarten has been put under medical surveillance. In addition, since the symptoms of URTI are similar to those of COVID-19, for prudence's sake, the kindergarten is covered in the compulsory testing notice (CTN) on April 26 to exclude the possibility of COVID-19 infection. The kindergarten was required to suspend teaching activities for at least five days for cleaning and executing the CTN.

The public should maintain good personal and environmental hygiene against influenza and other respiratory illnesses and note the following:

- Receive a seasonal influenza vaccination for personal protection;
- Surgical masks can prevent transmission of respiratory viruses from ill persons. It is essential for persons who are symptomatic (even if having mild symptoms) to wear a surgical mask;
- Wear a surgical mask when taking public transport or staying in crowded places. It is important to wear a mask properly, including performing hand hygiene before wearing and after removing a mask;
- Avoid touching one's eyes, mouth and nose;
- Wash hands with liquid soap and water properly whenever possibly contaminated;
- When hands are not visibly soiled, clean them with 70 to 80 per cent alcohol-based handrub;
- Cover the nose and mouth with tissue paper when sneezing or coughing. Dispose of soiled tissue paper properly into a lidded rubbish bin, and wash hands thoroughly afterwards;
- Maintain good indoor ventilation;
- When having respiratory symptoms, wear a surgical mask, refrain from work or attending class at school, avoid going to crowded places and seek medical advice promptly; and
- Maintain a balanced diet, exercise regularly, take adequate rest, do not smoke and avoid overstress.

Members of the public, particularly children, the elderly and those with chronic diseases, should wear a face mask and consult a doctor promptly if they develop symptoms of respiratory tract infection.

Hong Kong Customs seizes largest batch of suspected scheduled wood logs in past five years (with photo)

Hong Kong Customs seized about 211 tonnes of suspected scheduled wood logs of an endangered species with an estimated market value of about \$1.1 million from seven containers at the Kwai Chung Customhouse Cargo Examination Compound and the Tsing Yi Customs Cargo Examination Compound between April 29 and today (May 5). This is the largest seizure of suspected scheduled wood logs made by Customs over the past five years.

Through risk assessment, Customs officers selected seven containers that arrived in Hong Kong from Cambodia for inspection during the above-mentioned period. Upon inspection, the batch of suspected scheduled wood logs was found inside the containers.

The case was handed over to the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department for follow-up investigation.

Under the Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants Ordinance, any person found guilty of importing or exporting an endangered species without a licence is liable to a maximum fine of \$10 million and imprisonment for 10 years.

Members of the public may report any suspected smuggling activities to Customs' 24-hour hotline 2545 6182 or its dedicated crime-reporting email account (crimereport@customs.gov.hk).

