

[Latest arrangements for LCSD public services](#)

The Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) announced today (April 29) that the Cinema and the Exhibition Hall of the Hong Kong Film Archive (HKFA), which have been closed earlier for maintenance work, will be reopened on May 1 (Saturday) and May 28 (Friday) respectively. To mark its 20th anniversary, the HKFA will present a variety of programmes with the theme of "Acquisition and sharing". For details, please visit the HKFA's website (www.filmarchive.gov.hk).

Visitors to facilities of the HKFA are required to scan the "LeaveHomeSafe" QR code or register their name, contact number and the date and time of entry. They will be subject to temperature checks before admission, as well as needing to use hand sanitiser and wear their own masks. Enhanced cleaning and disinfection measures will be conducted.

In another development, owing to the pandemic and numerous uncertainties in business travel, the Chinese Opera Festival 2021, originally scheduled to be held from June to August this year, has been cancelled. Consent has been sought with the scheduled local and visiting performing arts groups on the cancellation of the Chinese Opera Festival. The LCSD will continue to present local productions to offer audiences high-quality performing arts programmes including a newly commissioned Cantonese opera, "The Asura Judgement", in June and July 2021. For details of the latest attractions from the Cultural Presentations Section, please visit www.lcsd.gov.hk/cp.

The LCSD will pay close attention to the latest developments of the pandemic, as well as the requirements for scheduled premises as stipulated in the Prevention and Control of Disease (Requirements and Directions) (Business and Premises) Regulation (Cap. 599F), and review or revise the above arrangements in due course.

[CHP investigates 15 additional confirmed cases of COVID-19](#)

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health announced that as of 0.00am, April 29, the CHP was investigating 15 additional confirmed cases of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), taking the number of cases to 11 771 in Hong Kong so far (comprising 11 770 confirmed cases and one probable case).

All newly reported cases are imported cases.

A total of 143 cases have been recorded in the past 14 days (April 15 to 28), including 35 local cases (including one possibly local) of which 15 are from unknown sources.

The CHP's epidemiological investigations and relevant contact tracing on the confirmed cases are ongoing. For case details and contact tracing information, please see the Annex or the list of buildings with confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the past 14 days and the latest local situation of COVID-19 available on the website "COVID-19 Thematic Website" (www.coronavirus.gov.hk).

Meanwhile, the CHP reminded those who had visited specified venues under the Prevention and Control of Disease (Compulsory Testing for Certain Persons) Regulation (Cap. 599J) to receive COVID-19 nucleic acid testing according to the compulsory testing notice. The Regulation also requires all household members of close contacts of confirmed cases to undergo a COVID-19 nucleic acid test within a specified period according to compulsory testing notices published in the Gazette. The public are also urged to seek medical attention early if symptoms develop and undergo testing as soon as possible.

The CHP reminded members of the public that two service providers will provide door-to-door specimen collection services for COVID-19 testing (basic charge \$100 for each specimen) during the Labour Day holiday (May 1). Persons undergoing Compulsory Home Quarantine can arrange by advance bookings to submit their deep throat saliva sample through the service during the period.

For service details relating to the service providers, please refer to the information below:

	HK PICK-UP LIMITED	HelloToby Technology (HK) Limited
Service subscription	hk.pickupp.io/en/blog/COVID-19-sample	www.hellotoby.com/en/ds/door-to-door-saliva-specimen-pick-up-service
General enquiries	hk@pickupp.io	3703 3250

The Government has launched the COVID-19 Vaccination Programme. Members of the public are encouraged to get vaccinated. Details of the programme can be found at the designated website (www.covidvaccine.gov.hk).

The CHP called on members of the public to avoid going out, having social contact and dining out. They should put on a surgical mask and maintain stringent hand hygiene when they need to go out. The CHP strongly urged the elderly to stay home as far as possible and avoid going out. They should consider asking their family and friends to help with everyday tasks such as shopping for basic necessities.

The spokesman said, "Given that the situation of COVID-19 infection remains severe and that there is a continuous increase in the number of cases reported around the world, members of the public are strongly urged to avoid all non-essential travel outside Hong Kong.

"The CHP also strongly urges the public to maintain at all times strict personal and environmental hygiene, which is key to personal protection against infection and prevention of the spread of the disease in the community. On a personal level, members of the public should wear a surgical mask when having respiratory symptoms, taking public transport or staying in crowded places. They should also perform hand hygiene frequently, especially before touching the mouth, nose or eyes.

"As for household environmental hygiene, members of the public are advised to maintain drainage pipes properly and regularly pour water into drain outlets (U-traps). After using the toilet, they should put the toilet lid down before flushing to avoid spreading germs."

Moreover, the Government has launched the website "COVID-19 Thematic Website" (www.coronavirus.gov.hk) for announcing the latest updates on various news on COVID-19 infection and health advice to help the public understand the latest updates. Members of the public may also gain access to information via the COVID-19 WhatsApp Helpline launched by the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer. Simply by saving 9617 1823 in their phone contacts or clicking the link wa.me/85296171823?text=hi, they will be able to obtain information on COVID-19 as well as the "StayHomeSafe" mobile app and wristband via WhatsApp.

To prevent pneumonia and respiratory tract infections, members of the public should always maintain good personal and environmental hygiene. They are advised to:

- 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;
- Perform hand hygiene frequently, especially before touching the mouth, nose or eyes, after touching public installations such as handrails or doorknobs, or when hands are contaminated by respiratory secretions after coughing or sneezing;
- Maintain drainage pipes properly and regularly (about once a week) pour about half a litre of water into each drain outlet (U-trap) to ensure environmental hygiene;
- After using the toilet, put the toilet lid down before flushing to avoid spreading germs;
- Wash hands with liquid soap and water, and rub for at least 20 seconds. Then rinse with water and dry with a disposable paper towel. If hand washing facilities are not available, or when hands are not visibly soiled, performing hand hygiene with 70 to 80 per cent alcohol-based handrub is an effective alternative;
- Cover your mouth and nose with tissue paper when sneezing or coughing. Dispose of soiled tissues into a lidded rubbish bin, then wash hands thoroughly; and
- 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.

Audit Commission's response to media enquiries on Report No. 76 of the Director of Audit

The Audit Commission noted the press release issued yesterday (April 28) night by the Immigration Department in response to Chapter 1 "Management of birth, death and marriage registrations" of Report No. 76 of the Director of Audit.

According to the requirements set out in the Government's Financial Circular No. 2/2020:

"During the period between the tabling of the report in Legislative Council and the public hearings, it has been agreed between the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) and the Administration that any public debate on the issues to be further investigated should be avoided by both sides as far as possible. This will ensure that the PAC can carry out public hearings smoothly and in a fair manner. To this end, Heads of the bureaux, departments and/or public organisations involved and their staff should refrain from initiating any publicity to counter the Audit findings."

In compliance with the requirements, the Audit Commission does not comment in public on matters relating to the audit reports.

EPD refuses concrete batching plant's licence renewal application

The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) today (April 29) issued a notice to refuse an application for renewal of a Specified Process Licence (SPL) for a concrete batching plant (CBP) at No. 22 Tung Yuen Street, Yau Tong.

A spokesman for the EPD said that the department has all along been concerned about the operation of the CBPs in Yau Tong, and has continuously stepped up inspections to monitor whether the CBPs strictly comply with the terms of the SPL and adopt the best practicable measures to avoid causing an environmental nuisance to nearby residents.

In the previous inspections, EPD enforcement officers repeatedly found

malpractices of the concerned CBP. Apart from multiple offers of advice and warnings given to the plant, prosecutions were instituted against the plant for one and two cases of violations of the licence terms in 2018 and 2020 respectively, of which the plant was convicted. In 2021 so far, the EPD found that the plant has continued to be involved in several cases of suspected violations of licence terms. The department is further collecting and compiling evidence with a view to initiating prosecution.

The spokesman explained that the previous environmental performance of the CBP was unsatisfactory. The plant has not submitted adequate information for the application to demonstrate that it possesses the capability to provide, install and effectively operate the necessary practicable measures for preventing pollutant emissions and nuisance caused to the nearby residents, and has hence failed to comply with the requirements for licence renewal under the Air Pollution Control Ordinance (APCO). The department thereby refused the application for renewal of the SPL for the plant.

According to the APCO, the plant concerned can appeal to the Appeal Board within 21 days of receiving the department's notification of refusing its licence renewal application, or the plant must cease operation upon expiry of the appeal period.

The spokesman stressed that the EPD will continue to step up inspections of the other concrete batching plants' operations in Yau Tong and will take stringent enforcement actions. In handling applications of SPL renewals for these CBPs in the future, the department will strictly follow the above-mentioned principles under the APCO in deciding whether to renew their SPL to safeguard the living environment of the nearby residents.

S for IT meets with founders of Greater Bay Area Association of Academicians (with photos)

The Secretary for Innovation and Technology, Mr Alfred Sit, today (April 29) met with founders of the Greater Bay Area Association of Academicians (GBAAA) to solicit insightful ideas from top-notch scientific research talents on the technological development of Hong Kong and the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA) and valuable advice on the development of the international innovation and technology (I&T) hub. The Permanent Secretary for Innovation and Technology, Ms Annie Choi, and the Under Secretary for Innovation and Technology, Dr David Chung, also joined the meeting.

Mr Sit said the GBAAA is a strong platform and assumes an important role

and huge responsibility for driving technology by leading national scientists. Combining the edge in scientific research and Hong Kong's advantage as an international city, the GBAAA helps foster cross-disciplinary exchange and collaboration and promote technology and popular science education. All this will be a driving force for the synergistic innovation and technology development of Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao as well as Hong Kong and the GBA's development into an international I&T hub, making contributions to the nation's advancement in technology.

With the country's domestic and international dual circulation development strategy and the support of the 14th Five-Year Plan, Hong Kong will push ahead in the development of the GBA into an international I&T hub, and will complement with Mainland cities of the GBA and Macao, to make good use of the advantages of Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao's research and development and industrial innovation to better integrate into national development and leverage Hong Kong's strengths to serve the country's needs.

Mr Sit also expressed gratitude to the GBAAA for its contribution to improve Hong Kong's electoral system, which can put Hong Kong back on the right track and regain its momentum in driving technology. As for the composition of the Election Committee, 15 seats under the newly added technology and innovation subsector will be nominated from among the Hong Kong academicians of the Chinese Academy of Sciences or the Chinese Academy of Engineering, and the nomination forms should be submitted by the GBAAA.

The GBAAA was initiated by six Hong Kong academicians of the Chinese Academy of Sciences and the Chinese Academy of Engineering. They are Professor Nancy Ip (the Convenor), Professor C C Chan, Professor Teng Jinguang, Professor Vivian Yam, Professor Henry Wong and Professor Lee Chack-fan.

