

Fraudulent websites and phishing instant messages related to Standard Chartered Bank (Hong Kong) Limited

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 Standard Chartered Bank (Hong Kong) Limited relating to fraudulent websites and phishing instant messages, which has been reported to the HKMA. A hyperlink to the press release is available on the [HKMA website](#).

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

Update on cluster of Multi-drug Resistant Acinetobacter cases in North District Hospital

The following is issued on behalf of the Hospital Authority:

Regarding an earlier announcement on a cluster of patients confirmed to be carriers of Multi-drug Resistant Acinetobacter (MDRA) in a medical ward, the spokesperson for North District Hospital gave the following update today (April 26):

The Hospital conducted contact tracing in accordance with the prevailing guidelines. One more male patient (aged 58) was found to be a carrier of MDRA. He had no symptoms of infection and had been discharged earlier.

Following the activation of the Emergency Response Level in public hospitals, the visiting arrangement for the ward concerned has been suspended. The following enhanced infection control measures have been stepped up according to the established guidelines:

1. Enhanced cleaning and disinfection of the ward concerned;

2. Application of stringent contact precautions and enhanced hand hygiene for staff and patients; and
3. Enhanced patient and environmental screening procedures.

The case has been reported to the Centre for Health Protection and the Hospital Authority Head Office for necessary follow-up. The Hospital will continue to closely monitor the conditions of other patients in the ward.

Update on cases of Legionnaires' disease

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health today (April 26) 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 April 18 to April 24, two community-acquired LD cases were reported, comprising:

1. A male patient, aged 62 with underlying illnesses, who lives in Kailey Court, 67-71 King's Road, Wan Chai District; and
2. A male patient, aged 85 with underlying illnesses, who lives in Block 1, Aldrich Garden, 2 Oi Lai Street, Eastern District.

"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 April 24, 10 LD cases had been reported this year. In 2020 and 2019, there were 104 and 105 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 which 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.

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.

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.

Import of poultry meat and products from areas in Poland suspended

The Centre for Food Safety (CFS) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department announced today (April 26) that in view of a notification from the General Veterinary Inspectorate of Poland about outbreaks of highly pathogenic H5N8 avian influenza in Kwidzki District and Lborski District of Pomorskie Region, Wyszowski District of Mazowieckie Region, Puawski District of Lubelskie Region, Brodnicki District of Kujawsko-pomorskie Region, Buski District of Świętokrzyskie Region and Świebodzki District of Lubuskie Region in Poland, the CFS has instructed the trade to suspend the import of poultry meat and products (including poultry eggs) from the above-mentioned areas with immediate effect to protect public health in Hong Kong.

A CFS spokesman said that according to the Census and Statistics Department, Hong Kong imported about 13 500 tonnes of frozen poultry meat and about 39.08 million poultry eggs from Poland last year.

"The CFS has contacted the Polish authorities over the issues and will closely monitor information issued by the World Organisation for Animal Health and the relevant authorities on the avian influenza outbreaks. Appropriate action will be taken in response to the development of the situation," the spokesman said.

Parking fees of government public car parks managed by TD frozen for another year

The Transport Department (TD) today (April 26) announced that the parking fees of 11 government public car parks under its management will be frozen at their existing levels for another year with effect from June 1 this year.

"In reviewing the parking fees, we have taken into account a number of factors, including the charges of nearby public car parks operated by the private sector, public acceptability and the utilisation of the government car parks, etc. Having considered the impact on the economy brought by the COVID-19 pandemic as well as the associated impact on the utilisation of the car parks, the TD has decided to maintain the parking fees at their existing levels," a spokesman for the TD said.

The 11 car parks are Kennedy Town Car Park, Rumsey Street Car Park, Star Ferry Car Park, City Hall Car Park, Tin Hau Car Park, Shau Kei Wan Car Park, Aberdeen Car Park, Sheung Fung Street Car Park, Wong Tai Sin Public Transport Terminus Car Park, Kwai Fong Car Park and Tsuen Wan Car Park. Details of the existing parking fees are available at the TD's website (www.td.gov.hk/en/transport_in_hong_kong/parking/carparks).

In 2020, the parking fees of the aforementioned car parks were frozen for one year.