

Correctional officers stop fighting among persons in custody

Correctional officers at Lai Sun Correctional Institution stopped a fight among four persons in custody today (April 18).

At 10.28am, four male persons in custody aged between 16 and 20 engaged in a fight in the exercise yard. Officers at the scene immediately stopped the fight and called for reinforcement.

One of the persons in custody sustained injuries to his hand and was referred to a public hospital for further treatment after examination and treatment by the institution Medical Officer. The other three persons in custody sustained injuries to head and hands, etc. They did not need to be sent out after receiving medical treatment.

The case has been reported to the Police for investigation.

The four persons in custody were sentenced to imprisonment for the offence of possession of a dangerous drug and robbery, etc.

Labour Department investigates fatal work accident in Kai Tak

The Labour Department (LD) is investigating a fatal work accident that happened in Kai Tak this morning (April 18) in which a man died.

The LD immediately deployed staff to the scene upon receiving a report of the accident, and is now conducting an investigation to look into its cause.

CHP investigates 30 additional confirmed cases of COVID-19

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health (DH) announced that as of 0.00am, April 18, the CHP was investigating 30

additional confirmed cases of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), taking the number of cases to 11 684 in Hong Kong so far (comprising 11 683 confirmed cases and one probable case).

Among the newly reported cases announced, 29 are imported cases and one is epidemiologically linked with a local case.

A total of 152 cases have been recorded in the past 14 days (April 4 to 17), including 36 local cases of which 12 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 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.

[Transcript of remarks by SFH at media](#)

session

Following is the transcript of remarks made by the Secretary for Food and Health, Professor Sophia Chan, after attending a radio programme today (April 18):

Reporter: Would the situation a kind of a rebound? Is there a need to delay the "vaccine bubble" plan that the Government is planning? Also, why is it not the time to lengthen the hotel quarantine to 28 days? And to strengthen the flight ban mechanism?

Secretary for Food and Health: First of all we are very concerned about the rebound. There are two areas of concern, first is about the gatherings and all the activities during the Easter holidays. We actually envisage that there could be some rebound, and now see the rebound with the increased number of unlinked cases. We will continue to do all the compulsory testing and also restriction testing, as well as quarantining all the contacts and close contacts (of confirmed cases). My colleagues have been working tirelessly on contact tracing, and have increased the number of people doing the contact tracing, and also lowering the threshold for quarantining because of the VOC (variant of concern) as well as the current situation. So we continue to strengthen all these work.

As far as the import of VOC and imported cases is concerned, starting from April 14, we have already strengthened our suspension of flight mechanism. If we look at the past data, from March to now we have already suspended seven flights for 14 days from different countries. Therefore with this new mechanism, we envisage that we will be suspending more flights. Whether we will be banning boarding on the places would depend on the assessment by the Centre for Health Protection. We will continue to review the situation in a timely manner.

As far as the "vaccine bubble" is concerned, our colleagues have been meeting the catering industry in the past week, and they had a very good discussion about the implementation details of some of the relaxation measures that we have proposed under the principle of "vaccine bubble". They will be meeting again next week to continue the discussion. We have already said many times, these gradual relaxation of return to normality obviously would have to base on the stable situation of the epidemic. But in order for us to return to normality, and refrain from opening and closely these premises, we will have to add or strengthen our mitigation measures, so that the risk associated with the slight or gradual relaxation would be mitigated, and that we can ensure a safe relaxation for our community. Thank you.

(Please also refer to the Chinese portion of the transcript.)

Red flags hoisted at Hap Mun Bay Beach

Attention TV/radio announcers:

Please broadcast the following as soon as possible:

Here is an item of interest to swimmers.

The Leisure and Cultural Services Department announced today (April 18) that due to big waves, red flags have been hoisted at Hap Mun Bay Beach in Sai Kung District. Beach-goers are advised not to swim at the beach.