

[Key statistics on service demand of A&E Departments and occupancy rates in public hospitals](#)

The following is issued on behalf of the Hospital Authority:

During the service demand surge, the Hospital Authority is closely monitoring the service demand of Accident and Emergency Departments and the occupancy rates in public hospitals. Key service statistics are being issued daily for public information. Details are in the appended table.

[CE appeals to people to support new direction in fighting pandemic](#)

The Chief Executive, Mrs Carrie Lam, together with the relevant Directors of Bureaux and a department head, held a press conference today (April 12), where she noted that with the fourth wave of the epidemic which has emerged since the second half of November last year apparently under control, a new direction in fighting the pandemic will be adopted down the road. Elucidating the adjustment of various anti-epidemic measures with "vaccine bubble" as the basis, she appealed to members of the public to get vaccinated sooner rather than later so that Hong Kong can gradually return to normality, and the flow of people with the Mainland and overseas can be restored as soon as possible.

"During the months-long fourth wave of the epidemic, the Government's strategy of 'preventing the importation of cases' has successfully stopped the virus variants from entering the city, and the spread of the disease in the community has been curbed with its enhanced capabilities. We will adopt a new direction in fighting the pandemic to restore the city to normality in a gradual and orderly manner, and aim to achieve the goal by refraining from using a 'stop and go' approach, reinforcing infection control measures in a targeted manner and reiterating the need for concerted community efforts," she said.

Mrs Lam said that in response to the aspirations of various sectors and members of the public, the Government will adjust social distancing measures with "vaccine bubble" as the basis. Taking the operation of restaurants as an example, if all the staff members have received their first vaccine dose and all the customers are required to use the "LeaveHomeSafe" mobile app, some operation restrictions can be relaxed in the relevant premises; if all the

staff members and customers have completed the vaccination (i.e., after 14 days following the administration of two vaccine doses for production of antibodies), the relevant premises can delineate a specified area where operation restrictions can be further relaxed.

Under the concept of "vaccine bubble", six types of premises which are currently required to be closed (including bars or pubs, bath-houses, party rooms, clubs or nightclubs, mahjong-tin kau premises and karaoke establishments) can resume operation gradually having regard to their business nature. Since these six types of premises have been closed for business for a relatively long period of time, the Government will support them with one more allowance round under the Anti-epidemic Fund 4.0, involving about \$400 million.

"Other relaxation measures that can be considered under the concept of 'vaccine bubble' may also cover visits of public hospital patients and residents of residential care homes for the elderly; quotas and venues of religious activities, weddings, annual meetings of companies, etc; and local tour groups and more. The relevant policy bureaux will liaise with the trades and announce the details later," she said.

She said that the convenience brought about by vaccinations can also be applied to cross-boundary travel, including shortening the quarantine period of persons arriving in Hong Kong from low-risk and medium-risk places; allowing vaccinated Hong Kong residents to take part in an Air Travel Bubble or enjoy the convenience of shortened or no quarantine for overseas travel or business trips offered by foreign governments.

In addition, the Government plans to expand the Return2hk Scheme for Hong Kong residents returning from Guangdong Province to other places in the Mainland by the end of April, no matter whether they are returning through the land-based boundary control points or the Hong Kong International Airport. The Government also plans to launch a new scheme to allow non-Hong Kong people entering Hong Kong from the Mainland without the need to undergo the 14-day compulsory quarantine, further restoring the flow of people between the two places. The Guangdong Provincial Government has agreed to allow cross-boundary goods vehicle drivers who have completed their vaccination to continue to be exempted from quarantine and relax the virus-testing requirement gradually, from once every day to once every three days.

"By proposing a new direction in fighting the pandemic, I intend to give a clear path for the fight against the virus at the next stage, helping the community to build a consensus and to work together. The work direction announced today is not a relaxation of policy, it aims to be more targeted, for example, the circuit breaker mechanism of civil flights will be further tightened to prevent the virus variants from entering Hong Kong and provide a more concrete incentive for people to get vaccinated. I appeal to members of the public to protect yourself and others, support the new direction in fighting the pandemic and get vaccinated as soon as possible to help Hong Kong get through the epidemic," Mrs Lam said.

North District Hospital makes announcement on interruption of negative pressure system in isolation ward

The following is issued on behalf of the Hospital Authority:

The spokesperson for the North District Hospital made the following announcement today (April 12) concerning the interruption of the negative pressure system of an isolation ward:

At 6.29pm this evening, the fire alarm of the hospital's isolation ward was activated and the negative pressure system of the ward was suspended as a result of safety default setting. After investigation by the Fire Services Department, it was confirmed that there was no fire. The negative pressure system subsequently resumed normal at 6.40pm.

While the negative pressure system was suspended, there were 21 patients in the ward including one COVID-19 patient who had her isolation order released by the Department of Health today and pending for discharge. The healthcare staff inside the ward had all worn appropriate personal protective equipment and no high risk procedure was performed. The infection risk has been assessed to be very low.

The incident has been reported to the Hospital Authority Head Office via the Advance Incident Reporting System.

Clarification on implementation of inspection arrangements for Companies Register

In response to media enquiries on an online report alleging that the Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury (SFST) had provided "misleading" information regarding the implementation of inspection arrangements for Companies Register at the meeting of the Legislative Council (LegCo) Panel on Financial Affairs last Friday, a spokesman for the Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau today (April 12) described the allegation as

groundless and responded as follows:

The SFST explained at the LegCo last week that the Companies Registry (CR), simulating the proposed new inspection arrangements, had conducted a stocktaking exercise on the Companies Register in April 2021 in regard to records of current individual directors of live companies holding Hong Kong Identity Card who may have identical full names (including Chinese and/or English) and partial numbers of the Hong Kong Identity Card (i.e. the alphabet and the first three numbers). Results showed that, amongst these some 588 000 current directors holding Hong Kong Identity Card, only eight pairs of them have identical Chinese and/or English full names, as well as the same alphabet and the first three numbers of the Hong Kong Identity Card, equivalent to a chance of 0.003%.

Some media today quoted an online report with information obtained from the Companies Register that entails comparison of partial identity card numbers in a way which is not the pattern to be adopted under the new inspection arrangements (i.e., alphabet and first three numbers), but any three out of the six numbers instead of the first three. The results therefore are not directly comparable. Meanwhile, some persons as quoted with identical particulars are from dissolved companies which are no longer live on the register. The results of the aforementioned CR's exercise could effectively demonstrate the level of reliability of the search services under the new inspection arrangements.

In the meantime, taking into account comments from members of the LegCo Panel on Financial Affairs, we will look into the possibility of providing additional information for searchers to identify directors concerned in the rare circumstances of different directors having identical partial identification number (IDN) as well as Chinese and/or English full name, without compromising the principle of protecting the full IDN of directors for the protection of personal privacy.

Fatal traffic accident in Wan Chai

Police are investigating a fatal traffic accident in Wan Chai today (April 12) in which an 88-year-old woman died.

At 4.05pm, a tram driven by a 60-year-old man was travelling along Hennessy Road westbound. When approaching outside 338 Hennessy Road, it reportedly knocked down the 88-year-old woman who was crossing the road.

Sustaining serious head injury, the woman was rushed to Ruttonjee Hospital in unconscious state and was certified dead at 6.27pm.

Investigation by the Special Investigation Team of Traffic, Hong Kong

Island is underway.

Anyone who witnessed the accident or has any information to offer is urged to contact the investigating officers on 3660 6848 or 3660 6800.