

Hong Kong Customs combats sale of counterfeit medicines (with photo)

Hong Kong Customs yesterday (April 8) mounted an operation in Yau Ma Tei and Tuen Mun to combat the sale of counterfeit medicines. A total of about 1 000 capsules and about 360 millilitres of four types of suspected counterfeit medicines with an estimated market value of about \$14,000 were seized. One type was a suspected controlled medicine as well. Three persons were arrested.

Customs earlier received information alleging that suspected counterfeit medicines and suspected controlled medicines were being sold at some dispensaries. Customs officers yesterday took enforcement action after an in-depth investigation with the assistance of trademark owners. Two dispensaries located in Yau Ma Tei and Tuen Mun were raided and the batch of suspected counterfeit medicines and suspected controlled medicines was seized.

During the operation, two male directors and a salesman, aged between 42 and 69, were arrested.

Investigation is ongoing.

Customs appeals to consumers to make purchases at shops with a good reputation and to check with the trademark owners or their authorised agents if the authenticity of a product is in doubt.

Customs also reminds traders to be cautious and prudent in merchandising since selling counterfeit goods is a serious crime and offenders are liable to criminal sanctions.

Under the Trade Descriptions Ordinance, any person who sells or possesses for sale any goods with a forged trademark commits an offence. The maximum penalty upon conviction is a fine of \$500,000 and imprisonment for five years.

Under the Pharmacy and Poisons Ordinance, any person who sells any poison included in Part 1 of the Poisons List other than in accordance with provisions commits an offence. The maximum penalty upon conviction is a fine of \$100,000 and imprisonment for two years.

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



[HKSAR Government strongly opposes and deplors harbouring of criminals by countries](#)

A spokesman for the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government made a solemn statement today (April 9), opposing the harbouring of criminals in any form by any country, region, organisation or individual, and expressed strong disapproval. The HKSAR Government emphasises that any society that upholds the rule of law should not accept anyone being above the law or having the privilege to break the law without facing legal consequences.

Following a series of riots and illegal acts advocating "Hong Kong independence" since June 2019, a number of criminals who, having committed serious offences in Hong Kong such as serious wounding, arson, manufacturing petrol bombs, making explosives, criminal damage, rioting, collusion with a foreign country or with external elements to endanger national security etc, absconded to evade legal responsibilities. These criminals made up numerous excuses, including lying to the court for approval to leave Hong Kong and alleging that they were prosecuted for political reasons to deliberately escape justice. These are shameful and cowardly acts.

In Hong Kong, any arrest and prosecution is directed against the criminal act and has nothing to do with the political stance, background or thought of the person(s) concerned; arrest and prosecution are based on facts and evidence, and conducted in strict accordance with the law. The Department of Justice controls criminal prosecutions, free from any interference. Hong Kong has an independent judiciary with the power of final adjudication. Everyone shall receive a fair and just trial.

Any country, region, organisation or individual that harbours Hong Kong criminals in any form shows contempt for the rule of law, grossly disrespects

Hong Kong's legal systems and barbarically interferes in the affairs of Hong Kong. The HKSAR Government strongly opposes and deplors such acts. They harbour these criminals who set fires, wounded others, made explosives, engaged in riots and endangered public safety, etc, and shelter these criminals in their country or region. They turn a blind eye to the offences committed by the criminals, and disregard the potential security threats posed to the local community and residents. They shall eventually bear the consequences of what they have done.

Meetings of Legislative Council and its Committees

The following is issued on behalf of the Legislative Council Secretariat:

Details of the meetings of the Legislative Council (LegCo) and its Committees to be held in the LegCo Complex during the week from April 12 to 16 are available in the meeting schedule attached.

The information in the meeting schedule is subject to change. Please refer to the LegCo Calendar on the LegCo Website (www.legco.gov.hk) for the latest details of meetings.

Members of the public can watch or listen to the meetings via the Webcast system on the LegCo Website. To observe the proceedings of the meetings at the LegCo Complex, members of the public may call 3919 3399 during office hours to reserve seats.

CHP investigates 14 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 9, the CHP was investigating 14 additional confirmed cases of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), taking the number of cases to 11 564 in Hong Kong so far (comprising 11 563 confirmed cases and one probable case).

Among the newly reported cases announced, 12 are imported cases and one is a local case with unknown source, while the remaining case is

epidemiologically linked with a local case.

A total of 121 cases have been recorded in the past 14 days (March 26 to April 8), including 24 local cases of which 10 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.

[Lands Department issues eight pre-sale consents in first quarter of 2021](#)

The Lands Department (LandsD) issued six pre-sale consents for residential developments and two pre-sale consents for non-residential developments in the first quarter of 2021.

The six pre-sale consents for four residential developments (of which

three are phased developments) involve a total of 1 832 residential units. One development in Sha Tin, comprising 66 residential units, is expected to be completed in 2021. Two developments in Kai Tak and Kwun Tong, comprising a total of 329 residential units, are expected to be completed in 2022. Three phases of a development in Sham Shui Po, comprising a total of 1 437 residential units, are expected to be completed in 2023.

The department also issued two pre-sale consents for non-residential developments in the first quarter. In addition, two consents to assign were issued, involving 710 residential units and one commercial unit in a phased development in Yuen Long.

As at the end of March 2021, 22 applications for pre-sale consent for residential developments were being processed. They involve a total of 12 533 residential units. Details are set out as follows:

No. of applications	Year in which developments are expected to be completed	No. of residential units involved
10	2022	6 228
12	2023	6 305

In addition, four applications for consent to assign involving a total of 1 475 residential units and four applications for pre-sale consent for non-residential developments were being processed.

Members of the public can obtain up-to-date information on consents issued for the past quarter and cases pending approval as at the end of March 2021 by visiting the LandsD's website (www.landsd.gov.hk).

Intending purchasers are advised to study carefully the details of the development and the sale procedures, through information available from public advertisements, sales brochures and price lists released by the developer, before making a deposit for purchase. The sales brochure for a development also contains a summary of the provisions of the Deed of Mutual Covenant, including information on the common parts, the number of undivided shares assigned to each unit, the term of years for which the manager is appointed, the basis on which the management expenses are shared among the owners of the units, as well as a summary of the provisions of the government land grant, which intending purchasers are recommended to read carefully.