

Immigration Department Mobile Application enhanced with Network Data Call function for 1868 Hotline

The Immigration Department (ImmD) announced today (March 31) the introduction of a new Network Data Call function for the 1868 Hotline on the Immigration Department Mobile Application (ImmD Mobile App). The new function enables residents to call the 24-hour 1868 Hotline of the Assistance to Hong Kong Residents Unit (AHU) using network data.

With the widespread use of network data calls, the ImmD has further utilised information technology to allow residents in distress or in need of assistance outside Hong Kong to call the 1868 Hotline using network data through the above new function on the ImmD Mobile App, in addition to making phone calls to (852) 1868.

Residents can download or update to the latest version of the ImmD Mobile App for free from Apple App Store, Google Play, Huawei AppGallery or the Homepage of the ImmD. After which residents can tap "1868 Hotline" under "Popular Services" on the main page, and then tap "Call the 1868 Hotline (Network Data Call)". After reading and accepting the Terms and Conditions, tap "Call" to contact the staff of the AHU.

ImmD reminds that residents may be charged by their mobile network service providers for the use of mobile data when calling the 1868 Hotline using network data. Residents are advised to make enquiries in advance with their mobile network service providers for charge details.

The link for downloading or updating the ImmD Mobile App can be found on the ImmD's webpage at www.immd.gov.hk/eng/mobile/index.html. For details, please visit the ImmD's webpage at www.immd.gov.hk/eng/faq/index.html.

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 winter 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.

Government consolidates testing requirements for persons arriving from places in China at different boundary control points

The Government announced today (March 31) that the COVID-19 nucleic acid testing arrangements for persons arriving at Hong Kong from places in China (including the Mainland, Macao and Taiwan) will be adjusted from April 1 to tally the relevant testing requirements.

Currently, the testing arrangements vary for persons arriving from different places in China at different boundary control points. For the Hong Kong International Airport (HKIA), all travellers arriving at Hong Kong via the HKIA are subject to the "test-and-hold" arrangement upon arrival, while travellers arriving from places in China will be given a specimen collection bottle for deep throat saliva sample collection for testing again on the 12th day of their arrival at Hong Kong.

As for land boundary control points, persons exempted from compulsory quarantine and Hong Kong residents arriving at Hong Kong under the Return2hk Scheme are required to conduct COVID-19 nucleic acid tests within three days prior to their arrival at Hong Kong and present the negative test result. Under specific circumstances, such as for persons who had stayed in designated places in the Mainland, they would also be given specimen collection bottles to collect deep throat saliva samples for testing on the 2nd and 12th day of their arrival at Hong Kong.

A spokesman for the Food and Health Bureau said, "The differing testing arrangements mentioned above may cause inconvenience to residents and travellers. To avoid confusion, the Government will tally the post-arrival testing arrangements at different control points, and require persons arriving at Hong Kong from places in China on or after April 1, 2021, to undergo testing on arrival/the 2nd day of arrival at Hong Kong and on the 12th day of their arrival."

The Government will gazette a compulsory testing notice under the Prevention and Control of Disease (Compulsory Testing for Certain Persons) Regulation (Cap. 599J). According to the compulsory testing notice, any person aged six or above who arrives at Hong Kong on or after April 1, 2021, via any land boundary control point and is placed under quarantine under the Compulsory Quarantine of Certain Persons Arriving at Hong Kong Regulation (Cap. 599C), as well as any person arriving at Hong Kong under the Return2hk

Scheme and are hence exempted from compulsory quarantine, must undergo testing on the 2nd and 12th day following the person's arrival at Hong Kong. At the same time, any person who arrives at Hong Kong via the HKIA and is placed under quarantine pursuant to Cap. 599C must also undergo testing on the 12th day following the person's arrival at Hong Kong in addition to the "test-and-hold" arrangement on the day of arrival. The Government will amend the relevant exemption conditions imposed on exempted persons by including the post-arrival test requirement as one of the exemption conditions.

The 2nd and 12th day following a person's arrival at Hong Kong are counted with the day of arrival as the 1st day. For example, for a person who arrived at Hong Kong on April 1, 2021, he/she should undergo the 2nd day test on April 2, 2021 and the 12th day test on April 12, 2021.

Port Health staff will distribute specimen collection bottles to the persons subject to the compulsory testing requirements mentioned above when they arrive at Hong Kong. The relevant persons subject to compulsory testing should collect deep throat saliva samples using the specimen bottles as per the guidelines on the 2nd and/or 12th day following their arrival in Hong Kong, and return the specimen collection bottles by the same day. If necessary, the relevant persons subject to compulsory testing may also choose to obtain the specimen collection bottles from one of the 121 post offices, 47 general out-patient clinics of the Hospital Authority or vending machines set up at 20 MTR stations via family or friends. For persons not subject to compulsory quarantine (i.e. persons arriving at Hong Kong under the Return2hk Scheme or persons exempted from compulsory quarantine), they may alternatively undergo the specified tests by attending Community Testing Centres on the 2nd and 12th day of their arrival at Hong Kong. The persons subject to testing must keep the SMS notifications containing results of the test for checking when a prescribed officer requires the persons to provide information about their undergoing the specified test.

Any enquiries on compulsory testing arrangements may be addressed to the hotline at 6275 6901 which operates from 9am to 6pm.

The Government will verify whether the relevant persons had complied with the compulsory testing notice. Any person who fails to comply with the testing notice commits an offence and may be fined a fixed penalty of \$5,000. The person would also be issued with a compulsory testing order requiring him/her to undergo testing within a specified timeframe. Failure to comply with the order is an offence and the offender would be liable to a fine at level 4 (\$25,000) and imprisonment for six months.

[London ETO celebrates Hong Kong films](#)

with Focus Hong Kong

The Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office, London (London ETO) is proud to support the film festival, Focus Hong Kong, which runs from March 31 to April 6 in the United Kingdom. Focus Hong Kong was first launched in partnership with the Chinese Visual Festival in February 2021 as a brand new UK film festival dedicated to celebrate the amazing cinema and filmmakers of Hong Kong.

Following the success of that Chinese New Year edition of the festival, this Easter edition will bring to the UK audiences six full-length movies of different genres, and a selection of short films from the Hong Kong Fresh Wave competition that highlights our emerging film talents.

This edition will include the UK premiere of "Beyond the Dream" by Director Kiwi Chow, "I Still Remember" by Director Lik Ho, and "My Prince Edward" by Director Norris Wong. The three directors will also give their insights into filmmaking in Hong Kong in recorded interviews.

The other three features comprise "Tracey" by Director Jun Li, and the 4K restoration of two classics, namely "Once Upon a Time in China" by Director Hark Tsui and "Throw Down" by Director Johnnie To.

Speaking about the festival, Miss Winky So, the Director-General of London ETO, said, "It is with great pleasure that we work with the Chinese Visual Festival again. We are so pleased to be able to open the eyes of UK film fans to the joy and expertise of Hong Kong filmmakers both famous and new. We hope you will enjoy the festival."

For further details, please visit the Festival website: focushk.chinesevisualfestival.org.

DH's response to media enquiries

â€‹In response to media enquiries on a death case not fulfilling the reporting criteria of Adverse Events Following Immunization (AEFIs), a spokesperson for the Department of Health (DH) responded today (March 31) as follows:

The Department of Health (DH) has been closely monitoring possible adverse events following COVID-19 immunization. Based on the guidelines of the World Health Organization, the DH enhanced the existing surveillance system and carried out active surveillance. Under the surveillance system, the DH monitors AEFIs and encourages and receives from healthcare providers and pharmaceutical industry AEFI reports of COVID-19 immunization. The DH

also partners with the University of Hong Kong (HKU) to conduct an active surveillance programme for Adverse Events of Special Interest under the COVID-19 Vaccines Adverse Events Response and Evaluation Programme (CARE Programme).

The DH reiterated that according to reporting criteria of AEFIs endorsed by the Expert Committee on Clinical Events Assessment Following COVID-19 Immunisation, when there are obvious medical causes (including clinical diagnosis and pathological evidence) for certain clinical events including death cases, the healthcare professionals may consider the event not fulfilling the reporting criteria of AEFIs. On the other hand, under the CARE Programme, the DH and the Hospital Authority have set up mechanism to refer death cases not fulfilling reporting criteria of AEFIs to HKU for surveillance and analysis. The HKU would provide regular reports to the Expert Committee; if unusual pattern is detected, the DH will be notified and the information will be referred to the Expert Committee for assessment as soon as possible.

Apart from handling cases referred by the Hospital Authority, the DH's public mortuaries had dealt with three Coroner's Court cases with a history of COVID-19 vaccination, including an 80-year-old woman who passed away at home. Based on a preliminary autopsy conducted by the DH's forensic pathologist, the finding was ruptured myocardial infarction and the professional judgement was that there was no direct causal relationship between her death and vaccination, thus not fulfilling the reporting criteria of AEFIs. The two other deceased, i.e. a 58-year-old man and a 30-year-old woman, passed away due to drowning and fall from height respectively, which had no direct causal relationship between their death and vaccinations, hence also not fulfilling the reporting criteria of AEFIs as well. The three cases will be passed to HKU's CARE Programme for analysis.

The spokesperson for the DH emphasised that the DH has all along been acting based on professionalism and scientific evidences to determine whether an event fulfills the reporting criteria of AEFIs.