

Crowd safety management measures and special traffic arrangements for Che Kung Festival

Police will implement crowd safety management measures and special traffic arrangements to facilitate worshippers visiting Che Kung Temple in Sha Tin during the Che Kung Festival period. Police reminded members of the public to observe regulations on group gatherings and mask wearing in order to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Crowd safety management measures

A large crowd is anticipated to visit Che Kung Temple and Che Kung Festival Fair during the Lunar New Year period. Depending on the crowd condition, one-way pedestrian flow may be implemented at MTR Tai Wai Station and in the vicinity of Che Kung Temple, including Che Kung Miu Road and Chui Tin Street, between 6am on February 12 and 6pm on February 15 to ensure public order and safety. Members of the public are urged to observe order and be patient while waiting in a queue.

Special traffic arrangements

A. Road closure

The following roads will be closed from 8pm on February 13 to 6pm on the following day:

1. The slow lane of westbound Che Kung Miu Road between Sha Tin Tau Road and Chui Tin Street; and
2. The slow lane of southbound Chui Tin Street between Che Kung Miu Road and the entrance of Sun Chui Estate near Sun Fong House.

B. Cycle tracks closure

The following cycle tracks will be closed from 8pm on February 11 to 8pm on February 15:

1. The cycle track along the western riverside of Shing Mun River Channel between Tsuen Nam Road and Che Kung Miu Road;
2. The cycle track along both sides of Che Kung Miu Road between Chui Tin Street and Sha Tin Tau Road;
3. The cycle track inside the subway system at the junction between Che Kung Miu Road and Chui Tin Street; and
4. The cycle track inside the subway system at the junction between Che Kung Miu Road and Sha Tin Tau Road.

During the cycle track closure period, cyclists may use the cycle track

along the northern riverside of Shing Mun River Channel between Lion Rock Tunnel Road and Shing Wan Road commuting to and from Sha Tin.

C. Suspension of car parks

The public car park adjacent to Che Kung Temple will be suspended from 6am on February 11 to 8pm on February 15, and daily from 7am to 6pm on February 20, 21, 26, 27 and 28.

The public car park adjacent to Greenview Garden will be suspended between 6am on February 13 and 8pm on the following day.

Members of the public are advised to make use of public transport to go to Che Kung Temple and Che Kung Festival Fair. Police reminded members of the public that the first incense offering this year will be cancelled due to the epidemic development. The Che Kung Temple will close at 6pm as usual on February 11.

Any vehicles found illegally parked within the precincts mentioned above will be towed away without prior warning.

Actual implementation of the crowd safety management measures and traffic arrangements will be made depending on traffic and crowd conditions in the area. Members of the public are advised to exercise tolerance and patience and take heed of instructions of the Police on site.

Results of monthly survey on business situation of small and medium-sized enterprises for January 2021

The Census and Statistics Department (C&SD) released today (February 9) the results of the Monthly Survey on Business Situation of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) for January 2021.

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The current diffusion index (DI) on business receipts amongst SMEs went up from 35.6 in December 2020 in the contractionary zone to 38.1 in January 2021, whereas the one-month's ahead (i.e. February 2021) outlook DI on business receipts was 41.9. Analysed by sector, the current DIs on business receipts for most of the surveyed sectors rose in January 2021 as compared with previous month. Though contracting to a lesser extent, the current DIs on business receipts for some sectors were far below the 50-mark in January 2021, particularly for the restaurants (from 14.3 to 24.0), retail trade (from 32.0 to 35.8) and wholesale trade (from 32.4 to 37.1).

The current DI on new orders for the import and export trades increased

from 41.5 in December 2020 to 42.4 in January 2021, whereas the outlook DI on new orders in one month's time (i.e. February 2021) was 44.2.

Commentary

A government spokesman said that business sentiment among SMEs remained subdued in January 2021 despite some relative improvement, with the sub-indices across all sectors staying below the boom-bust divide. In particular, the sub-indices for restaurants and retail trade remained deep in the contractionary zone, reflecting the severe disruptions to consumption-related activities caused by the fourth wave of local epidemic.

The spokesman added that putting the epidemic under control at the soonest possible with the concerted effort of the whole community is of pivotal importance to the revival of business confidence and hence the attainment of a full-fledged economic recovery. The Government will monitor the developments closely.

Further information

The Monthly Survey on Business Situation of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises aims to provide a quick reference, with minimum time lag, for assessing the short-term business situation faced by SMEs. SMEs covered in this survey refer to establishments with fewer than 50 persons engaged. Respondents were asked to exclude seasonal fluctuations in reporting their views. Based on the views collected from the survey, a set of diffusion indices (including current and outlook diffusion indices) is compiled. A reading above 50 indicates that the business condition is generally favourable, whereas that below 50 indicates otherwise. As for statistics on the business prospects of prominent establishments in Hong Kong, users may refer to the publication entitled "Report on Quarterly Business Tendency Survey" released by the C&SD.

It should be noted that the results of the survey should be interpreted with care. The survey solicits feedback from a panel sample of about 600 SMEs each month and the survey findings are thus subject to sample size constraint. Views collected from the survey refer only to those of respondents on their own establishments rather than those on the respective sectors they are engaged in. Besides, in this type of opinion survey on expected business situation, the views collected in the survey are affected by the events in the community occurring around the time of enumeration, and it is difficult to establish precisely the extent to which respondents' perception of the business situation accords with the underlying trends. For this survey, main bulk of the data were collected in the last week of the reference month.

More detailed statistics are given in the "Report on Monthly Survey on the Business Situation of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises". Users can download the publication at the website of the C&SD (www.censtatd.gov.hk/hkstat/sub/sp300.jsp?productCode=B1080015).

Users who have enquiries about the survey results may contact Industrial Production Statistics Section of the C&SD (Tel: 3903 7246; email: sme-survey@censtatd.gov.hk).

Effective Exchange Rate Index

The effective exchange rate index for the Hong Kong dollar on Tuesday, February 9, 2021 is 100.5 (down 0.2 against yesterday's index).

Low blood stocks prompt call for blood donations during Chinese New Year holidays (with photos)

The following is issued on behalf of the Hospital Authority:

The Hong Kong Red Cross Blood Transfusion Service (BTS) announced today (February 9) that most BTS donor centres will be open during the Chinese New Year holidays. The BTS appeals to the public to donate blood for patients in need during the Chinese New Year holidays. The increase in demand for blood transfusions since the commencement of the winter surge has caused blood stocks to run very low in public hospitals.

Amid the pressure of the epidemic, as well as the suspension of mobile blood donation services at corporate settings and schools, the amount of blood collection has been consistently low since the beginning of January. The collection is not sufficient to meet the daily blood demand from local hospitals. Public hospitals require a large amount of blood products for clinical transfusion. Sufficient blood supply is crucial at the Accident and Emergency Departments and in critical situations such as organ transplants and emergency operations, as well as to meet blood demand from thalassaemia and blood cancer patients.

The BTS follows stringent measures to safeguard blood safety and infection control. To prevent crowds from gathering and long waiting times at the donor centres, donors are advised to make appointments by calling the BTS' donor centres or via the "HK Blood" mobile app. Members of the public can download the "HK Blood" mobile app via the following link to locate the nearest donor centres across the city and make blood donation appointments: www5.ha.org.hk/rcbts/hkblood-intro?lang=en.

As a token of thanks, all successful blood donors during the period from February 12 to 15 will receive a CNY Goodie Bag, while stocks last.



Exchange Fund Bills tender results

The following is issued on behalf of the Hong Kong Monetary Authority:

Exchange Fund Bills tender results:

Tender date : February 9, 2021

Paper on offer : EF Bills
Issue number : Q2106
Issue date : February 10, 2021
Maturity date : May 12, 2021
Amount applied : HK\$106,367.5 MN
Amount allotted : HK\$40,801 MN
Average yield accepted : 0.06 PCT
Highest yield accepted : 0.07 PCT
Pro rata ratio* : About 61 PCT
Average tender yield : 0.08 PCT

Tender date : February 9, 2021
Paper on offer : EF Bills
Issue number : H2135
Issue date : February 10, 2021
Maturity date : August 11, 2021
Amount applied : HK\$46,561 MN
Amount allotted : HK\$10,000 MN
Average yield accepted : 0.05 PCT
Highest yield accepted : 0.05 PCT
Pro rata ratio* : About 87 PCT
Average tender yield : 0.08 PCT

*"Pro rata ratio" refers to the average percentage of allotment with respect to each tender participant's tendered amount at the "highest yield accepted" level.