

Import of poultry meat and products from areas in UK, Korea, Denmark and Hungary suspended

The Centre for Food Safety (CFS) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department announced today (January 7) that in view of notifications from the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs of Korea, the Danish Veterinary and Food Administration and the Ministry of Agriculture of Hungary about outbreaks of highly pathogenic H5N8 avian influenza in East Devon District of Devon County in the United Kingdom (UK); Sejong City in Korea; Viborg Municipality in Denmark and Komarom-Esztergom County in Hungary respectively, the CFS has instructed the trade to suspend the import of poultry meat and products (including poultry eggs) from the abovementioned areas with immediate effect to protect public health in Hong Kong.

A CFS spokesman said that Hong Kong has currently established a protocol with Hungary for the import of poultry meat but not for poultry eggs. According to the Census and Statistics Department, Hong Kong imported about 8,700 tonnes of chilled and frozen poultry meat and about 330,000 poultry eggs from the UK; about 740 tonnes of chilled and frozen poultry meat and about 8.9 million poultry eggs from Korea; about 1 150 tonnes of chilled and frozen poultry meat and about 1.3 million poultry eggs from Denmark; and about 712 tonnes of frozen poultry meat from Hungary in the first nine months of last year.

"The CFS has contacted the British, Korean, Danish and Hungarian authorities over the issues and will closely monitor information issued by the OIE and the relevant authorities on avian influenza outbreaks. Appropriate actions will be taken in response to the development of the situation," the spokesman said.

HAD opens temporary cold shelters

In view of the cold weather, the Home Affairs Department has opened 18 temporary shelters today (January 7) for people in need of the service.

The temporary shelters will remain open during the daytime tomorrow (January 8) when the cold weather warning is still in force.

To ensure that cold shelter users can rest in a quiet and undisturbed environment, members of the public or agencies wishing to make donations to

shelter users are requested to register with the staff of the shelter first. Donors will then be directed to place the donated items at a specified indoor location. The staff will help notify the shelter users to collect the items on their own.

Anyone seeking temporary refuge or with any questions about the donation arrangements at the cold shelters may call the department's hotline 2572 8427 for more information.

The 18 temporary cold shelters are located at:

Hong Kong Districts:

Central and Western:

Sai Ying Pun Community Complex Community Hall
3/F, Sai Ying Pun Community Complex, 2 High Street, Sai Ying Pun

Eastern:

Causeway Bay Community Centre
3/F, 7 Fook Yum Road, Causeway Bay

Southern:

Lei Tung Community Hall
Lei Tung Estate, Ap Lei Chau

Wan Chai:

Wan Chai Activities Centre
LG/F, Wan Chai Market, 258 Queen's Road East, Wan Chai

Kowloon Districts:

Kowloon City:

Hung Hom Community Hall
1/F, Kowloon City Government Offices, 42 Bailey Street, Hung Hom

Kwun Tong:

Lam Tin (West) Estate Community Centre
71 Kai Tin Road, Lam Tin

Sham Shui Po:

Nam Cheong District Community Centre
1 Cheong San Lane, Sham Shui Po

Wong Tai Sin:

Tsz Wan Shan (South) Estate Community Centre
45 Wan Wah Street, Tsz Wan Shan

Yau Tsim Mong:

Henry G Leong Yaumatei Community Centre
60 Public Square Street, Yau Ma Tei

New Territories:

Islands:

Tung Chung Community Hall
G/F, Tung Chung Municipal Services Building,
39 Man Tung Road, Tung Chung

Kwai Tsing:

Tai Wo Hau Estate Community Centre
15 Tai Wo Hau Road, Kwai Chung

North:

Cheung Wah Community Hall
Cheung Wah Estate, Fanling

Sai Kung:

King Lam Neighbourhood Community Centre
King Lam Estate, Tseung Kwan O

Sha Tin:

Lung Hang Estate Community Centre
Lung Hang Estate, Sha Tin

Tai Po:

Tai Po Community Centre
2 Heung Sze Wui Street, Tai Po

Tsuen Wan:

Lei Muk Shue Community Hall
G/F, Hong Shue House, Lei Muk Shue Estate, Tsuen Wan

Tuen Mun:

Butterfly Bay Community Centre
Butterfly Estate (near Tip Sum House), Tuen Mun

Yuen Long:

Long Ping Community Hall
Long Ping Estate, Yuen Long

Lands Department issues 12 pre-sale consents in fourth quarter of 2020

The Lands Department (LandsD) issued 10 pre-sale consents for residential developments and two pre-sale consents for non-residential developments in the fourth quarter of 2020.

The 10 pre-sale consents for nine residential developments (of which five are phased developments) involve a total of 4 491 residential units. Five developments in Kowloon Tong, Kai Tak, Sha Tin and Tseung Kwan O, and two phases of a development in Tuen Mun, comprising a total of 3 203 residential units, are expected to be completed in 2022. Three developments in Yau Tong, Kwun Tong and Sha Tin, comprising a total of 1 288 residential units, are expected to be completed in 2023.

The department also issued one consent to assign in the fourth quarter of 2020, involving 2 392 residential units in a phased development in Tseung Kwan O.

Taking into account the pre-sale consents issued in the first three quarters in 2020, the LandsD issued a total of 33 pre-sale consents for residential developments involving 12 898 residential units in 2020.

As at the end of December 2020, 22 applications for pre-sale consent for residential developments and three applications for pre-sale consent for non-residential developments were being processed.

The 22 applications for residential developments involve a total of 11 446 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
1	2021	66
9	2022	5 207
12	2023	6 173

In addition, three applications for consent to assign involving 732 residential units and one application for consent to assign for non-residential development are 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 December 2020 by visiting the LandsD's website (www.landso.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.

Update on cluster of Carbapenemase-Producing Enterobacteriaceae cases in Hong Kong Buddhist Hospital

The following is issued on behalf of the Hospital Authority:

Regarding an earlier announcement on a cluster of patients confirmed to have Carbapenemase-Producing Enterobacteriaceae (CPE) in a female medical ward, the spokesperson for Hong Kong Buddhist Hospital gave the following update today (January 7):

The hospital has stepped up the screening procedures and identified that one more 94-year-old patient in the female medical ward has been confirmed to be carrying CPE without signs of infection. She is being treated under isolation in stable condition.

The hospital infection control team has followed up with the departments concerned and the Centre for Health Protection. The following enhanced infection control measures have already been adopted in the ward:

1. Enhanced patient and environmental screening procedures;
2. Application of stringent contact precautions and enhanced hand hygiene for staff and patients; and
3. Enhanced cleaning and disinfection of the ward.

The hospital will continue to closely monitor the situation of the ward. The case has been reported to the Hospital Authority Head Office and the Centre for Health Protection for necessary follow-up.

CHP investigates outbreak of acute gastroenteritis at training institute in Wong Chuk Hang

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health (DH) is today (January 7) investigating an outbreak of acute gastroenteritis (AGE)

at a training institute in Wong Chuk Hang, and hence reminded the public and management of institutions to maintain personal and environmental hygiene against AGE.

The outbreak involves 17 male and 11 female trainees aged 20 to 36, who have developed abdominal pain, vomiting and diarrhoea since January 5. All of them sought medical attention and none required hospitalisation. All patients have been in a stable condition.

Officers of the CHP conducted a site visit and provided health advice to the staff of the institute concerning proper and thorough disinfection, proper disposal of vomitus, and personal and environmental hygiene. The institute has been put under medical surveillance.

The CHP's investigations are ongoing.

A spokesman for the CHP advised members of the public to take heed of the following preventive measures against gastroenteritis:

- Ensure proper personal hygiene;
- Wash hands thoroughly before handling food and eating, after using the toilet or after changing diapers;
- Wear gloves when disposing of vomitus or faecal matter, and wash hands afterwards;
- Clean and disinfect contaminated areas or items promptly and thoroughly with diluted household bleach (by adding one part of bleach containing 5.25 per cent sodium hypochlorite to 49 parts of water). Wash hands thoroughly afterwards;
- Maintain good indoor ventilation;
- Pay attention to food hygiene;
- Use separate utensils to handle raw and cooked food;
- Avoid food that is not thoroughly cooked;
- Drink boiled water; and
- Do not patronise unlicensed food premises or food stalls.

The public may visit the CHP's website (www.chp.gov.hk) or call the DH's Health Education Hotline (2833 0111) for more information.