

## [Hong Kong Customs seizes suspected heroin \(with photo\)](#)

Hong Kong Customs yesterday (December 21) detected a cross-boundary drug trafficking case through the cargo channel and seized about 5.3 kilograms of suspected heroin with an estimated market value of about \$8 million at Hong Kong International Airport.

Customs officers yesterday inspected an air transshipment cargo arriving from Afghanistan en route to Australia via Hong Kong. After an initial check with advanced examination equipment, the batch of suspected heroin was found concealed in three pieces of metal parts, 21 sets of water filters and 24 golf balls.

Investigation is ongoing.

Customs will continue to combat cross-boundary drug trafficking activities through cargo channels at the airport through strategies of risk-profiling and intelligence analysis.

Under the Dangerous Drugs Ordinance, trafficking in a dangerous drug is a serious offence. The maximum penalty upon conviction is a fine of \$5 million and life imprisonment.

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



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## [November's monthly gravidtrap index for Aedes albopictus drops to lowest level at Level 1](#)

The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) today (December 22)

announced that the monthly gravidtrap index for *Aedes albopictus* (MGI) in November is 1.9 per cent, lower than that of 3.9 per cent in October. The index in November is at Level 1 at its lowest, indicating that mosquito infestation in the areas surveyed was not extensive.

Among the 62 survey areas, no area was recorded with gravidtrap indices exceeding the alert level of 20 per cent. Moreover, the monthly density index for *Aedes albopictus* (MDI) in November slightly dropped to 1.1 from 1.2 in October, which represented that an average of 1.1 *Aedes albopictus* adults were found in the *Aedes*-positive gravidtraps, indicating that the number of adult *Aedes albopictus* was not high in the areas surveyed. The FEHD reminded the public that despite the index further dropping and remaining at a low level, the breeding and activities of mosquitoes will continue in winter and the community must remain vigilant and continue to carry out effective mosquito prevention and control measures.

As for the port areas, the port monthly gravidtrap index in November dropped to 0.03 per cent from 0.4 per cent in October, while the port monthly density index in November remained at 1 as in October.

The FEHD will launch its year-end clean-up operation on January 18 next year, during which mosquito preventive and control work will be enhanced, including carrying out inspections, removing stagnant water, applying insecticide and disposing of abandoned water containers weekly to prevent mosquito breeding, and trimming of grass to discourage resting of adult mosquitoes on the site. The FEHD and relevant government departments will continue the above mosquito prevention and control work in areas under their purview and strengthen publicity and education campaigns.

The area gravidtrap index (AGI) and the area density index (ADI) indicate the extensiveness of distribution and the density of *Aedes* mosquitoes respectively in that particular survey area, while the MGI and the MDI are enumerated by pooling together all AGIs and ADIs of the same month, which reflects the general situation of *Aedes albopictus* in all survey areas. The gravidtrap and density indices for *Aedes albopictus* in different areas and information on mosquito prevention and control measures are available on the department's website at [www.fehd.gov.hk](http://www.fehd.gov.hk).

The spokesman said, "*Aedes albopictus* is a kind of mosquito that can transmit dengue fever (DF) as well as Zika virus infection. DF is commonly found in tropical and subtropical regions of the world, and has become endemic in many countries in Southeast Asia. The World Health Organization also issued warnings that the number of DF cases recorded in Asia last year was higher than before. As Hong Kong has recorded this year's first and only local DF case so far in April and the dengue activity in neighbouring areas has remained high, as well as the breeding and activities of mosquitoes will continue in winter, we hope the public would continue to work with the Government to carry out effective mosquito prevention and control measures."

The spokesman added that as *Aedes albopictus* breeds in small water bodies, members of the public should carry out effective mosquito prevention and control measures including inspecting their homes and surroundings to

remove potential breeding grounds, changing the water in vases and scrubbing the inner surfaces, removing the water in saucers under potted plants at least once a week, properly disposing of containers such as soft drink cans and lunch boxes, and drilling large holes in unused tyres. He also advised the public and estate management bodies to keep drains free of blockage and level all defective ground surfaces to prevent accumulation of water. They should also scrub all drains and surface sewers with an alkaline detergent at least once a week to remove any mosquito eggs.

The spokesman reiterated that effective mosquito control requires the sustained effort of all parties concerned. The community must work together with the Government to carry out effective mosquito control measures.

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## Government condemns spreading rumours on Internet

In response to rumours circulating on the Internet that the Chief Executive will hold a press conference this afternoon (December 22) to announce various stringent measures to curb the virus spread, a Government spokesman said that this is absolutely unfounded and that the content of the concerned online post is totally fabricated.

"We strongly condemn the spread of the rumours and appeal to the public to stay united in this difficult period as we fight against the disease," the spokesman said.

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## Exchange Fund Bills tender results

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

Exchange Fund Bills tender results:

Tender date	: December 22, 2020
Paper on offer	: EF Bills
Issue number	: Q2052
Issue date	: December 23, 2020
Maturity date	: March 24, 2021
Amount applied	: HK\$103,347 MN

Amount allotted : HK\$44,226 MN  
Average yield accepted : 0.01 PCT  
Highest yield accepted : 0.02 PCT  
Pro rata ratio\* : About 49 PCT  
Average tender yield : 0.04 PCT

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Tender date : December 22, 2020  
Paper on offer : EF Bills  
Issue number : H2081  
Issue date : December 23, 2020  
Maturity date : June 23, 2021  
Amount applied : HK\$33,170 MN  
Amount allotted : HK\$9,000 MN  
Average yield accepted : 0.03 PCT  
Highest yield accepted : 0.03 PCT  
Pro rata ratio\* : About 70 PCT  
Average tender yield : 0.05 PCT

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Tender date : December 22, 2020  
Paper on offer : EF Bills  
Issue number : Y2098  
Issue date : December 23, 2020  
Maturity date : December 22, 2021  
Amount applied : HK\$12,720 MN  
Amount allotted : HK\$2,100 MN  
Average yield accepted : 0.05 PCT  
Highest yield accepted : 0.05 PCT  
Pro rata ratio\* : About 48 PCT  
Average tender yield : 0.07 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.

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â€‹Hong Kong Monetary Authority tenders to be held in the week beginning December 28, 2020:

Tender date : December 29, 2020  
Paper on offer : EF Bills  
Issue number : Q2053  
Issue date : December 30, 2020  
Maturity date : March 31, 2021  
Tenor : 91 Days

Amount on offer : HK\$57,376 MN  
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Tender date : December 29, 2020  
Paper on offer : EF Bills  
Issue number : H2082  
Issue date : December 30, 2020  
Maturity date : June 30, 2021  
Tenor : 182 Days  
Amount on offer : HK\$18,200 MN

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## Effective Exchange Rate Index

The effective exchange rate index for the Hong Kong dollar on Tuesday, December 22, 2020 is 101.4 (up 0.2 against yesterday's index).