

Fraudulent website related to Hang Seng Bank, Limited

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

The Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA) wishes to alert members of the public to a press release issued by Hang Seng Bank, Limited on fraudulent website, which has been reported to the HKMA. Hyperlink to the press release is available on the [HKMA website](#) for ease of reference by members of the public.

Anyone who has provided his or her personal information to the website concerned or has conducted any financial transactions through the website should contact the bank concerned using the contact information provided in the press release, and report to the Police or contact the Cyber Security and Technology Crime Bureau of the Hong Kong Police Force at 2860 5012.

Missing woman in Sheung Shui located

A woman who went missing in Sheung Shui has been located.

Lau Sau-ching, aged 73, went missing after she left her residence in Ching Ho Estate on May 29 morning. Her family made a report to Police on the same day.

The woman was located on Tsing Tsuen Road, Tsing Yi yesterday (June 7) morning.

Government announces details on latest smoking situation in Hong Kong

The Department of Health announced today (June 8) that the latest government survey results have revealed that the overall prevalence of smoking in Hong Kong was comparable to that recorded in the previous survey. The percentage of daily cigarette smokers aged 15 and above in the local population last year was 10.2 per cent, while in 2017 the figure was 10.0 per cent.

The latest Thematic Household Survey (THS) Report, which was conducted from April to July 2019 and published by the Census and Statistics Department today, contains the findings of the survey on the pattern of smoking among Hong Kong residents. According to the findings, there were about 637 900 daily smokers, representing 10.2 per cent of the local population aged 15 and above. The figure was similar to that of 2017 (10.0 per cent). The average cigarette consumption by daily smokers was 12.7 cigarettes daily, which was similar to the figure of 2017.

Of note, the 2019 survey results have revealed that the smoking prevalence among teenagers aged between 15 and 19 has been decreasing in the past 10 years. However, the percentage of teenage smokers in the local population could not be estimated accurately as the number of smokers in this age group was too low. The smoking prevalence among men in the younger age groups of 20 to 29 and 40 to 49 also decreased 2.6 and 3.0 per cent respectively. Meanwhile, smoking prevalence among men in the age group of 50 to 59 increased 3.4 per cent, making the overall prevalence in the age group of 50 to 59 (both sexes) increase 2 per cent. Moreover, the latest smoking prevalence among females in 2019 was 3.2 per cent, representing a rise of 0.5 percentage points compared to 2.7 per cent in 2017.

On the other hand, the Food and Health Bureau commissioned the School of Public Health of the University of Hong Kong to conduct a school-based survey from October 2018 to July 2019 on smoking among students. According to the survey, the smoking prevalence among Primary Four to Six students and Secondary One to Six students was 0.1 per cent and 1.5 per cent respectively, representing no change and a drop of 1 percentage point compared to the 2016-17 survey respectively.

According to the THS Report, the percentage of daily e-cigarette smokers aged 15 and above in the local population was 0.1 per cent (7 200 persons) in 2019, while 5 700 persons were recorded in 2017. The survey also for the first time covered separate statistics on heated tobacco products and revealed that the percentage of daily heated tobacco product smokers aged 15 and above in the local population was 0.2 per cent.

The spokesman said, "The smoking prevalence among secondary school students and men in the younger age groups dropped, which reflected the effectiveness of the Government's efforts on smoking prevention. Although the overall smoking prevalence was similar to that recorded in the last survey, the Government is very concerned that the smoking prevalence was not further reduced. Furthermore, even though the number of people using alternative smoking products is not high, the Government will continue to closely monitor the situation and step up its efforts on publicity regarding the hazards of these products. As the Government still has as its target further reducing smoking prevalence to 7.8 per cent by 2025, we will continue to work closely with various partners to strengthen public education and explore new initiatives to enhance smoking cessation services.

"We would like to thank our community partners for their support and

contributions in the work of tobacco control, which has helped to maintain Hong Kong's daily smoking prevalence as one of the lowest in the world. The Government will continue to push ahead with its tobacco control work, including legislation, law enforcement, taxation, health promotion and smoking cessation services, with a view to encouraging more smokers to attempt and succeed in quitting smoking," the spokesman added.

Update on cases of Legionnaires' disease

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health today (June 8) reported the latest number of cases of Legionnaires' disease (LD), and stressed the importance of using and maintaining properly designed man-made water systems, adding that susceptible groups should strictly observe relevant precautions.

From May 31 to June 6, two community-acquired LD cases were reported:

1. A male patient, aged 85 with underlying illnesses, who lives in Yiu Hei House, Tung Hei Court, Sai Wan Ho; and
2. A male patient, aged 52 with underlying illnesses, who lives in Block 1, Fu Ning Garden, Tseung Kwan O.

"Epidemiological investigations are ongoing to identify potential sources of infection, high-risk exposures and clusters, if any," a spokesman for the CHP said.

As of June 6 this year, 37 LD cases had been reported. In 2019 and 2018, there were 105 cases each year.

"Men, people aged over 50, smokers, alcoholics and persons with weakened immunities are more susceptible to LD. Some situations may also increase the risk of infection including poor maintenance of water systems leading to stagnant water; living in areas with old water systems, cooling towers or fountains; using electric water heaters, whirlpools and spas or hot water spring spas; and recent stays in hotels or vessels," the spokesman said.

Legionellae are found in various environmental settings and grow well in warm water (20 to 45 degrees Celsius). They can be found in aqueous environments such as water tanks, hot and cold water systems, cooling towers, whirlpools and spas, water fountains and home apparatus which support breathing. People may become infected when they breathe in contaminated droplets (aerosols) and mist generated by artificial water systems, or when handling garden soil, compost and potting mixes.

Immunocompromised persons should:

- Use sterile or boiled water for drinking, tooth brushing and mouth rinsing;
- Avoid using humidifiers, or other mist- or aerosol-generating devices. A shower may also generate small aerosols; and
- If using humidifiers, or other mist- or aerosol-generating devices, fill the water tank with only sterile or cooled freshly boiled water, and not water directly from the tap. Also, clean and maintain humidifiers/devices regularly according to manufacturers' instructions. Never leave stagnant water in a humidifier/device. Empty the water tank, wipe all surfaces dry, and change the water daily.

The public should observe the health advice below:

- Observe personal hygiene;
- Do not smoke and avoid alcohol consumption;
- Strainers in water taps and shower heads should be inspected, cleaned, descaled and disinfected regularly or at a frequency recommended by the manufacturer;
- If a fresh-water plumbing system is properly maintained, it is not necessary to install domestic water filters. Use of water filters is not encouraged as clogging occurs easily, which can promote growth of micro-organisms. In case water filters are used, the pore size should be 0.2 micrometres (μm) and the filter needs to be changed periodically according to the manufacturer's recommendations;
- Drain and clean water tanks of buildings at least quarterly;
- Drain or purge for at least one minute infrequently used water outlets (e.g. water taps, shower heads and hot water outlets) and stagnant points of the pipework weekly or before use;
- Seek and follow doctors' professional advice regarding the use and maintenance of home respiratory devices and use only sterile water (not distilled or tap water) to clean and fill the reservoir. Clean and maintain the device regularly according to the manufacturer's instructions. After cleaning/disinfection, rinse the device with sterile water, cooled freshly boiled water or water filtered with 0.2 μm filters. Never leave stagnant water in the device. Empty the water tank, keep all surfaces dry, and change the water daily; and
- When handling garden soil, compost and potting mixes:
 1. Wear gloves and a face mask;
 2. Water gardens and compost gently using low pressure;
 3. Open composted potting mixes slowly and make sure the opening is directed away from the face;
 4. Wet the soil to reduce dust when potting plants; and
 5. Avoid working in poorly ventilated places such as enclosed greenhouses.

The public may visit the CHP's [LD page](#), the [Code of Practice for Prevention of LD](#) and the [Housekeeping Guidelines for Cold and Hot Water Systems for Building Management](#) of the Prevention of LD Committee, and the CHP's [risk-based strategy](#) for prevention and control of LD.

[Virtual Information Expo on Multiple Pathways 2020 to go live on June 12 and 13](#)

The Education Bureau will hold a Virtual Information Expo on Multiple Pathways 2020 (Virtual Info Expo) online on June 12 and 13 (Friday and Saturday) in light of the latest situation of the COVID-19 pandemic.

A spokesman for the EDB said today (June 8) that the Virtual Info Expo will, through a one-stop online platform, provide the latest information and studies and career guidance on various articulation opportunities for secondary school graduates to make good preparation regarding planning further studies and career paths. This is the first time the annual Expo will be delivered online, and other students, parents and teachers are welcome to join.

"Around 30 institutions and organisations will display online booths at the Virtual Info Expo to provide information on locally accredited post-secondary programmes (including programmes eligible for government subsidy schemes as well as vocational and professional education and training programmes), the Diploma Yi Jin programme, relevant online platforms such as the Information Portal for Accredited Post-secondary Programmes, the Electronic Advance Application System for Post-secondary Programmes, the Concourse for Self-financing Post-secondary Education, and the Qualifications Framework," he added.

In addition, Hok Yau Club and the Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups will offer studies and career guidance services to students.

The Virtual Info Expo supports a live chat function for institutions/organisations to answer enquiries directly online. There will also be live talks on multiple pathways, preparation and strategies for articulation to post-secondary education and sharing sessions by post-secondary students. Industry and institution representatives will also provide first-hand information about relevant programmes and career development in the industries concerned.

The Virtual Info Expo can be accessed at infoexpo2020.fste.edu.hk from 10am to 6pm on June 12 and 13. Prior registration is not required.

Details are available at www.cspe.edu.hk/en/Resources-CareerGuidance-MultiplePathwaysExpo.html.