

[Adequate public transport services for class resumption of Secondary Three to Five students tomorrow](#)

The Transport Department (TD) said today (May 26) that in view of class resumption of Secondary Three to Five students tomorrow (May 27), major public transport operators will provide adequate public transport services to cater for transport demand.

Except for the continued suspension and service adjustment of some routes (e.g. those serving tourists, those connecting to land-based boundary control points and the airport, and those with low patronage during night time), all franchised bus companies will resume their bus services to the pre-COVID-19 levels from tomorrow to cater for the commuting needs of passengers.

The TD's Emergency Transport Co-ordination Centre will closely monitor the traffic situation and public transport services. It will also maintain close liaison with major public transport operators and relevant government departments and arrange public transport service enhancement when necessary.

Students and members of the public are advised to pay attention to the latest transport and traffic news on radio and television before leaving home and allow more travelling time.

[Transcript of remarks by CE at media session before ExCo meeting \(with video\)](#)

Following is the transcript of remarks by the Chief Executive, Mrs Carrie Lam, at a media session before the Executive Council meeting today (May 26):

Reporter: On the national security law, of course Hong Kong people know that when law enforcement officers operate in Hong Kong, they have to abide by some kind of law, but after your explanation Hong Kong people still have two major concerns. The first one is the possibility of this Mainland security agency being set up in Hong Kong. Will it allow officers to arrest Hong Kong people who took part in anti-government marches in the past or that kind of activity? And the second one is that while you said Hong Kong people's

freedom can be continued to be protected, some legal scholars have said that even calling for the Chief Executive to step down would constitute subversion against state power. So under these two major concerns, how can this be continuing to protect Hong Kong people's freedom of speech under international covenants? And how can this be targeting small minority of Hong Kongers? While I know that you don't have much detail to tell us, how can you reassure Hong Kong people and foreign investors that we still enjoy our legal rights and freedoms and this is not another form of the extradition bill? Thank you.

Chief Executive: To answer your question, the most important assurance is contained in the articles in the draft Decision and also the very clear exposition given by not only the National People's Congress leader, but I also understand that several leaders have spoken on this subject during the session of the National People's Congress. That is not just hearsay, that is a very clear statement and assurances given by the leaders of the People's Republic of China. For people who still have concerns, they will have to wait for the details to be put in front of them before they could be assured.

Some of the things that you have said about Mainland agencies coming down to arrest people undergoing protest and they will be arrested for calling for the Chief Executive to step down are at the moment your imaginations or things that have been said by some people. We are a very free society, so for the time being people have this freedom to say whatever they want to say. But ultimately what is to be provided in this piece of legislation is for all of us to see in order to be assured that Hong Kong's freedoms will be preserved and Hong Kong's vibrancy and the core values in terms of the rule of law, the independence of the Judiciary, the various rights and freedoms enjoyed by people will continue to be there.

When you quoted the ICCPR, all these international covenants do also confess and admit the need for national security. Rights and freedoms are not absolute. If we want to protect the majority of the people, then if a minority of people, indeed a very small minority of people, are going to breach the law, to organise and participate in terrorist activities, to subvert the state power, of course they have to be bound by the needed legislation.

Reporter: You say that the people of Hong Kong will still enjoy the rights and freedoms that they've always enjoyed under this new national security law. Well that includes the freedom of speech and the freedom of expression. Can the people of Hong Kong still protest on the streets, voicing opposition to you, the Hong Kong Government and the CCP (Chinese Communist Party)? Can you guarantee this, and will the national security law be retrospective? Thank you.

Chief Executive: My answer is, also the answer that I've given in response to other questions is that the assurances are very clearly laid out in the draft Decision as well as the explanation given by the National People's Congress leader. There is no need for us to worry because in the last 23 years whenever people worried about Hong Kong's freedoms of speech and freedoms of

expressions and protest, time and again Hong Kong has proven that we uphold and preserve those values. I think the best thing is to see the legislation in front of us, and to understand why at this point in time Hong Kong needs this piece of legislation, for the bigger benefit of the great majority of Hong Kong people.

Reporter: But can people still protest...

Chief Executive: Hong Kong has over 10 000 public order events every year. That has been a figure that I quoted whenever I go out to meet with international business community. That is the proof of Hong Kong's vibrancy and respect for rights and freedoms. Protest itself is an expression of freedoms and rights and opinions if it is done in a legal way. You must observe the law, everybody has a right to observe the law. It is just not quite reasonable for you to ask me to guarantee that a certain type of protest will be allowed and other type will not be allowed. It has to depend on the circumstances and whether it has been done in a legal fashion.

Reporter: And will the law be retrospective?

Chief Executive: I could not comment when the law is yet to be drafted.

(Please also refer to the Chinese portion of the transcript.)

[CHP reviews local HIV/AIDS situation in first quarter of 2020](#)

A total of 129 additional cases of Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) infection were reported to the Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health (DH) in the first quarter of 2020, and sexual transmission remained the major mode of HIV transmission.

Reviewing the latest HIV/Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) situation in Hong Kong at a press conference today (May 26), the Consultant (Special Preventive Programme) of the CHP, Dr Kenny Chan, said that the cumulative total of reported HIV infections since 1984 was 10 409 and stressed the importance of consistent and proper use of condoms in reducing the risk of contracting HIV.

"HIV is the cause of AIDS and, without treatment, about half of HIV-infected people will progress to AIDS within 10 years. On the contrary, early HIV treatment with antiretroviral drugs helps prevent AIDS and its complications. It also significantly improves the quality of life and prolongs the survival of those infected," Dr Chan remarked.

"Members of the public with a history of unsafe sex should take an HIV

antibody test early. They can call the DH's AIDS Hotline (2780 2211) for a free, anonymous and confidential HIV test. HIV-positive people should seek specialist care as soon as possible," he continued.

Of the 129 HIV cases, involving 105 males and 24 females, reported in the above quarter, 57 acquired the infection via homosexual or bisexual contact and 34 via heterosexual contact. The routes of transmission of the remaining 38 cases have yet to be determined due to incomplete information upon notification.

The new cases were mainly reported by three major sources: public hospitals, clinics and laboratories (69 cases); DH's Social Hygiene Clinics (19 cases) and the private hospitals, clinics and laboratories (15 cases). Also, 87 of the HIV-infected people (67 per cent) have already received HIV specialist services from the DH or the Hospital Authority.

In addition, 22 new cases of AIDS were reported in this quarter, of which 12 cases (55 per cent) were attributed to homosexual or bisexual contact, eight cases (36 per cent) were related to heterosexual contact. The route of transmission of two cases (9 per cent) has yet to be determined due to incomplete information upon notification. Since 1985, a cumulative total of 2 140 confirmed AIDS cases have been reported in Hong Kong.

In this quarter, the most common AIDS-defining illness was Pneumocystis pneumonia, a kind of chest infection.

The public may visit the following pages for more information on HIV/AIDS: the DH's Virtual AIDS Office (www.aids.gov.hk), the Red Ribbon Centre (www.rrc.gov.hk), the AIDS Hotline website (www.27802211.com) and the Gay Men HIV Information website (www.21171069.gov.hk).

Red flag hoisted at Shek O Beach

Attention TV/radio announcers:

Please broadcast the following as soon as possible:

Here is an item of interest to swimmers.

The Leisure and Cultural Services Department announced today (May 26) that due to big waves, the red flag has been hoisted at Shek O Beach in Southern District, Hong Kong Island. Beach-goers are advised not to swim at the beach.

2020 edition of "Statistical Digest of the Services Sector" published

The 2020 edition of "Statistical Digest of the Services Sector" is published by the Census and Statistics Department (C&SD) today (May 26). The Digest is now available for download (in PDF format) free of charge at the website of the C&SD (www.censtatd.gov.hk/hkstat/sub/sp70.jsp?productCode=B1080007). A statistical summary of some major service industries is shown in the attached sheet.

The services sector is the heart of Hong Kong's economy. Accurate and detailed statistics play an important role in support of the Government's initiatives on promoting the services sector. The C&SD has accordingly compiled this annual publication.

The Digest brings together in one volume the more important statistical series on 14 major service industries/domains of Hong Kong. Different types of statistics pertaining to a specific service industry/domain are presented in a dedicated section of the Digest, supported by graphical presentations, for easy reference and interpretation. Most of the statistics presented cover the year 2009 and each of the years from 2015 to 2019, to facilitate comparison over the past decade. Where appropriate, quarterly statistics from the third quarter of 2018 to the fourth quarter of 2019 are also provided to show the latest short-term economic performance of selected service industries/domains within the services sector of Hong Kong.

Enquiries about this publication can be directed to the Logistics and Producer Prices Statistics Section of the C&SD (Tel: 3903 7255 or email: services@censtatd.gov.hk).