

Public hospitals daily update on COVID-19 cases

The following is issued on behalf of the Hospital Authority:

As at noon today (April 12), public hospitals had reported to the Department of Health the admission of 55 patients (32 male and 23 female, aged 16 to 82) in the past 24 hours who met the reporting criteria of COVID-19. Appropriate tests have been arranged for the patients.

There are 671 patients under isolation currently. So far, 360 patients who had COVID-19 confirmed or probable infection have been discharged upon recovery.

The Hospital Authority will maintain close contact with the Centre for Health Protection to monitor the latest developments and to inform the public and healthcare workers on the latest information in a timely manner.

Appeal for information on missing girl in Mong Kok (with photo)

Police today (April 12) appealed to the public for information on a girl who went missing in Mong Kok.

Chan Ka-yi, aged 13, went missing after she left her residence on Maple Street on April 7 night. Her family made a report to Police on April 9.

She is about 1.6 metres tall, 36 kilograms in weight and of thin build. She has a pointed face with yellow complexion and long black hair. She was last seen wearing a white T-shirt, grey shorts, white sports shoes and carrying a transparent shoulder bag.

Anyone who knows the whereabouts of the missing girl or may have seen her is urged to contact the Regional Missing Person Unit of Kowloon West on 3661 8038, 9020 6542 or email to rmpu-kw@police.gov.hk, or contact any police station.



Transcript of remarks by FS at media session (with photo/video)

Following is the transcript of remarks by the Financial Secretary, Mr Paul Chan, at a media session after attending a radio programme this morning (April 12):

Reporter: Mr Chan, just now on the radio programme you said that Hong Kong's budget deficit this year may exceed \$276 billion, your estimation just a few days ago, can you explain why there is such a change in the estimation in just a few days? And also is it because you foresee a further need to roll out more relief measures in the future? And secondly, about the relief package, how will the Government make sure that businesses who apply for government funding will not cut the salaries and ask their workers to take no-pay leave? Will there be any penalties for these businesses and employers?

Financial Secretary: The total package of these relief measures costs more than \$130 billion. When I delivered the Budget at the end of February, I forecasted a budget deficit of close to \$140 billion. This together with the recently announced measures would bring our total deficit to close to \$280 billion. Considering that during economic recession, tax collections and revenue from land sale would inevitably come down, we are of the view that it would be quite possible for the deficit for this year to exceed \$280 billion. That is point number one. Your second point is about....., excuse me?

Reporter: For the relief package, would there be any penalties for businesses who apply for the government subsidy but later cut salaries and also, you know, ask the employees to take no pay leave. Will there be any penalties for

them?

Financial Secretary: Over the past few days, we heard the concerns about the scheme from the public, in particular the points that you mentioned, whether the employers while receiving subsidy from the Government would ask their staff to take no-pay leave or take pay cut. These views will be duly considered by the Secretary for Labour and Welfare and also the Policy Innovation and Co-ordination Office. We have heard the concerns and are looking into the implementation details at the moment. These will be duly considered. In designing the scheme, one of the features is transparency, so companies which have applied for such subsidy will be published and with improved transparency, hopefully there would be more accountability and also opportunities for aggrieved employees to raise their concern.

Reporter: Do you have any preliminary ideas about how to tackle the issue?

Financial Secretary: This will be considered by the Secretary for Labour and Welfare, as well as the Policy Innovation and Co-ordination Office because they are in charge of the implementation and are coordinating the implementation details.

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



Red fire danger warning

Attention duty announcers, radio and TV stations:

The fire danger situation today (April 12) is red and fire risk is extreme. The countryside is extremely vulnerable to fire. If you are planning to spend the day in the countryside, please take pre-cooked food for a picnic and take all measures to prevent hill fires. The penalty for lighting fires illegally in the countryside is \$25,000 and a year's imprisonment.

Collapsed person in custody dies in hospital

A person in custody collapsed in Stanley Prison and died in a public hospital today (April 11).

The 64-year-old male person in custody was suffering from hypertension and heart disease, and required continuous medical care and follow-up at the institution hospital and public hospital. At about 3.40pm today, the correctional officers found him collapsed in the exercise yard. He was immediately examined and applied first aid by institutional medical staff, and an ambulance was called to send him to a public hospital for further rescue. His condition deteriorated and was certified dead at 5.28pm today.

The case has been reported to the Police. A death inquest will be held by the Coroner's Court.

The person in custody was sentenced to imprisonment for the offence of theft in January 2020.