

Effective Exchange Rate Index

The effective exchange rate index for the Hong Kong dollar on Thursday, July 25, 2019 is 105.1 (down 0.1 against yesterday's index).

Update on latest MERS situation in Saudi Arabia

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health is today (July 25) closely monitoring seven additional cases of Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) reported to the World Health Organization (WHO) by Saudi Arabia from June 1 to 30. The CHP again urged the public to pay special attention to safety during travel, taking due consideration of the health risks in the places they visit.

According to the WHO, of the additional cases, six were male patients and one was a female patient, with ages from 28 to 71. Among them, four had exposure to camels and consumed camel milk, and one was a health care worker who had contact with a previously confirmed patient. Four had underlying illnesses and one has passed away.

According to the latest information, 2 449 cases have been reported to the WHO (with 845 deaths), including 2 230 in 10 Middle East countries comprising 2 058 in Saudi Arabia, 87 in the United Arab Emirates, 28 in Jordan, 24 in Oman, 19 in Qatar, six in Iran, four in Kuwait, two in Lebanon, and one each in Yemen and Bahrain.

"We will maintain close communication with the WHO and relevant health authorities," a spokesman for the CHP said.

"As countries in the Middle East, particularly Saudi Arabia, continue to report MERS cases from time to time, travellers should refrain from going to farms, barns or markets with camels and avoid contact with sick persons and animals, especially camels, birds or poultry. Most of the cases reported in the Middle East had a history of exposure to camels, consumption of camel milk or contact with other MERS patients," the spokesman said.

"Scientific evidence showed that camels are reservoirs for MERS Coronavirus (MERS-CoV). Camels infected with MERS-CoV may not show any signs of infection. Infected animals may shed MERS-CoV through nasal and eye discharge and faeces, and potentially in their milk and urine. The virus may also be found in the raw organs and meat of infected animals. Therefore, the best protection is to practise good hygiene and avoid direct contact with all of these," the spokesman added.

From time to time, suspected MERS cases reported to the CHP for investigation involve patients with a history of contact with camels in the Middle East. The CHP strongly advises travel agents organising tours to the Middle East to abstain from arranging camel rides and activities involving direct contact with camels, which are known risk factors for acquiring MERS-CoV.

Travellers to affected areas should maintain vigilance, adopt appropriate health precautions and take heed of personal, food and environmental hygiene. The public may visit the MERS page of the [CHP](#) and its [Travel Health Service](#), MERS statistics in [affected areas](#), the CHP's [Facebook Page](#) and [YouTube Channel](#), and the WHO's [latest news](#) for more information and health advice. Tour leaders and tour guides operating overseas tours are advised to refer to the CHP's [health advice on MERS](#).

August 2019 adjustment in ceiling prices for dedicated LPG filling stations

The Electrical and Mechanical Services Department today (July 25) announced an adjustment to the auto-LPG (liquefied petroleum gas) ceiling prices for dedicated LPG filling stations from August 1 to August 31, 2019, in accordance with the terms and conditions of the contracts of the dedicated LPG filling stations.

A department spokesman said that the adjustment on August 1, 2019, reflects the movement of the LPG international price in July 2019. The adjusted auto-LPG ceiling prices for dedicated LPG filling stations will range from \$2.64 to \$3.19 per litre, representing a decrease of \$0.25 to \$0.26 per litre.

The spokesman said that the auto-LPG ceiling prices were adjusted according to a specified pricing formula. The formula comprises two elements – the LPG international price and the LPG operating price. The LPG international price is the LPG international price of the preceding month. The LPG operating price is adjusted on the first day of February every year according to the movement in the Composite Consumer Price Index in the previous year.

The auto-LPG ceiling prices for respective dedicated LPG filling stations in August 2019 are as follows:

Location of Dedicated LPG Filling Station	Auto-LPG Ceiling Price in August 2019 (HK\$/litre)	Auto-LPG Ceiling Price in July 2019 (HK\$/litre)
Fung Yip Street, Chai Wan	3.19	3.44
Ngo Cheung Road, West Kowloon	3.19	3.44
Sham Mong Road, Mei Foo	2.85	3.11
Yip Wong Road, Tuen Mun	2.85	3.11
Marsh Road, Wan Chai	2.85	3.10
Fung Mat Road, Sheung Wan	2.78	3.04
Wai Lok Street, Kwun Tong	2.78	3.04
Yuen Chau Tsai, Tai Po	2.78	3.04
Cheung Yip Street, Kowloon Bay	2.83	3.08
Kwai On Road, Kwai Chung	2.83	3.08
Hang Yiu Street, Ma On Shan	2.64	2.90
Tak Yip Street, Yuen Long	2.64	2.90

The spokesman said that the details of the LPG international price and the auto-LPG ceiling price of each dedicated LPG filling station have been uploaded to the department website www.emsd.gov.hk. They are also posted at dedicated LPG filling stations to enable the trades to monitor the price adjustment.

Details of the pricing adjustment mechanism for dedicated LPG filling stations can also be viewed under the "What's New" section of the department website at www.emsd.gov.hk/en/what_s_new/current/index.html.

[Lifesaving services at Cafeteria Old Beach and Golden Beach resume](#)

Attention TV/Radio Announcers:

Please broadcast the following as soon as possible and repeat it at regular intervals:

Here is an item of interest to swimmers.

The Leisure and Cultural Services Department has announced that the lifesaving services at Cafeteria Old Beach and Golden Beach in Tuen Mun District resumed today (July 25). The lifesaving services at the beaches were

suspended earlier due to an insufficient number of lifeguards on duty.

Lifesaving services suspended at Golden Beach

Attention TV/radio announcers:

Please broadcast the following as soon as possible and repeat it at regular intervals:

The Leisure and Cultural Services Department announced today (July 25) that due to an insufficient number of lifeguards on duty, the lifesaving services at Golden Beach in Tuen Mun District is suspended until further notice.

First aid service will be maintained at the beach.