

## **Red flag hoisted at Clear Water Bay First 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 (June 24) that due to inclement weather, the red flag has been hoisted at Clear Water Bay First Beach in Sai Kung District. Beach-goers are advised not to swim at the beach.

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## **Red flag lowered at Big Wave Bay Beach**

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 said today (June 24) that the red flag at Big Wave Bay Beach in Southern District, Hong Kong Island has been lowered and the beach has been reopened.

The red flag was hoisted at the beach earlier on due to the uneven sandy area.

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## **Public forum on proposed guidelines on election-related activities in respect of the District Council Election**

The following is issued on behalf of the Electoral Affairs Commission:

The Electoral Affairs Commission will hold a public forum tomorrow (June

25) on the proposed guidelines on election-related activities in respect of the District Council Election.

"Members of the public are welcome to express their views at the public forum," a Commission spokesman said today (June 24).

The forum will be held from 7pm to 9pm at the Quarry Bay Community Hall, 1 Greig Road, Quarry Bay, Hong Kong.

The proposed guidelines were released on June 11 for public consultation. The public consultation period will last for 30 days until July 10.

Written representations can be submitted to the Commission's Secretariat by post at 10/F, Harbour Centre, 25 Harbour Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong, by fax (2511 1682) or email (eacenq@eac.hk) by July 10. Late representations will not be considered.

The proposed guidelines can be downloaded from the Commission's website ([www.eac.hk](http://www.eac.hk)). They are also available for public inspection at the Registration and Electoral Office and the Home Affairs Enquiry Centres of District Offices.

For enquiries, please call 2827 1269.

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## **Effective Exchange Rate Index**

The effective exchange rate index for the Hong Kong dollar on Monday, June 24, 2019 is 104.8 (same as last Saturday's index).

The effective exchange rate index for the Hong Kong dollar on Saturday, June 22, 2019 was 104.8 (down 0.1 against last Friday's index).

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## **Update on cases of Legionnaires' disease**

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health today (June 24) reported the latest number of cases of Legionnaires' disease (LD), and stressed the importance of using and maintaining properly designed man-made water systems, and that susceptible groups should strictly observe

relevant precautions.

From June 16 to 22, six community-acquired LD cases were reported. They are:

1. A male patient, aged 55 with good past health, who lives in Block 1, The Mount Austin, 8 Mount Austin Road, Central and Western District;
2. A male patient, aged 58 with underlying illnesses, who lives in Block 2, Shau Kei Wan Centre, 7 Factory Street, Shau Kei Wan;
3. A female patient, aged 65 with underlying illnesses, who lives in Chak Tsui House, Wan Tsui Estate, Chai Wan;
4. A male patient, aged 56 with underlying illnesses, who lives in Ha Che, Yuen Long;
5. A male patient, aged 57 with underlying illnesses, who lives in Block C, Scenery Garden, Fo Tan; and
6. A male patient, aged 66 with good past health, who lives in Tower 16, Caribbean Coast, Tung Chung.

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

As of June 22, 45 LD cases had been reported in 2019. In 2018 and 2017, there were 105 and 72 cases respectively.

"Men, people aged over 50, smokers, alcoholics and persons with weakened immunity 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 get 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 ( $\mu\text{m}$ ) 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  $\mu\text{m}$  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.