

Update on cases of Legionnaires' disease

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health today (May 27) 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 May 19 to 25, four community-acquired LD cases were reported. They are:

1. A male patient, aged 62 with underlying illnesses, who lives in Block 4, Uptown Plaza, Tai Po;
2. A male patient, aged 47 with underlying illnesses. He is a visitor from Canada;
3. A male patient, aged 81 with underlying illnesses, who lives in Tower 5, Park Central, Tseung Kwan O; and
4. A male patient, aged 57 with good past health, who lives in Tai Yat House, Yat Tung (1) Estate, 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 May 25, 28 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 (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.

Yuen Long District Council by-election nominations open tomorrow

Nominations for the by-election for the Shap Pat Heung West Constituency and San Tin Constituency of the Yuen Long District Council will open tomorrow (May 28).

"The nomination period will end on June 10. A nominee must be a registered geographical constituency elector aged 21 or above who has ordinarily resided in Hong Kong for the three years immediately preceding his or her nomination. Details on the eligibility to be nominated as a candidate, disqualification for being nominated as a candidate and from being elected as an elected member, and the requirements to be complied with by persons nominated as candidates are set out in sections 20, 21 and 34 respectively of the District Councils Ordinance," a spokesman for the Registration and Electoral Office (REO) said today (May 27).

"A nomination form must be subscribed by 10 registered electors of the constituency concerned. Each elector is allowed to subscribe only one nomination," he added.

The nominee must personally hand in the completed nomination form and an election deposit of \$3,000 to the Returning Officer for this by-election within the nomination period. Nominations are accepted from 9am to 5pm, Mondays to Fridays, and from 9am to noon on Saturdays, except public holidays.

The District Officer (Yuen Long) has been appointed as the Returning Officer for this by-election, and his office is located at 4/F, Yuen Long District Office Building, 269 Castle Peak Road, Yuen Long, New Territories.

Nomination forms are available at the office of the Returning Officer or can be downloaded from the REO website (www.reo.gov.hk). They can also be obtained at the REO at 10/F, Harbour Centre, 25 Harbour Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong. The office will extend its service hours to include Saturday mornings from 9am to noon until the end of the nomination period.

"Nominees are advised to submit their nominations as early as possible to allow time to correct mistakes, if any, in the nomination forms before the deadline," the spokesman said.

If the number of validly nominated candidates for a constituency is more than one at the by-election, a poll will be held on July 14, 2019 (Sunday) for the by-election for that constituency.

Enquiries can be made to the election hotline on 2891 1001.

Lifesaving services at Cafeteria Old 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 in Tuen Mun District resumed today (May 27). The lifesaving services at the beach were suspended earlier due to an insufficient number of lifeguards on duty.

Lifesaving services suspended at Cafeteria Old 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 (May 27) that due to an insufficient number of lifeguards on duty, the lifesaving services at Cafeteria Old Beach in Tuen Mun District have been suspended until further notice.

First aid services will be maintained at the beach.

Firing practice for June 2019

Firing practice will take place at two military sites, namely the San Wai/Tai Ling Firing Range and the Tsing Shan Firing Range, next month (June).

Red flags or red lamps will be hoisted at the firing areas before and

during firing practice. For their safety, people are advised not to enter the firing area.

Following are the dates and times for the firing practice sessions in June 2019:

San Wai/Tai Ling Firing Range

Date	Time
June 3 (Monday)	8am-9pm
June 4 (Tuesday)	8am-9pm
June 5 (Wednesday)	8am-9pm
June 6 (Thursday)	8am-9pm
June 10 (Monday)	8am-9pm
June 11 (Tuesday)	8am-9pm
June 12 (Wednesday)	8am-9pm
June 13 (Thursday)	8am-9pm
June 14 (Friday)	8am-9pm
June 17 (Monday)	8am-9pm
June 18 (Tuesday)	8am-9pm
June 19 (Wednesday)	8am-9pm
June 20 (Thursday)	8am-9pm
June 21 (Friday)	8am-9pm
June 24 (Monday)	8am-9pm
June 25 (Tuesday)	8am-9pm
June 26 (Wednesday)	8am-9pm
June 27 (Thursday)	8am-9pm
June 28 (Friday)	8am-9pm

Tsing Shan Firing Range

Date	Time
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June 3 (Monday)	8am-9pm
June 4 (Tuesday)	8am-9pm
June 5 (Wednesday)	8am-9pm
June 6 (Thursday)	8am-9pm
June 10 (Monday)	8am-9pm
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