

# Infectious disease cases in Hong Kong West Cluster

The following is issued on behalf of the Hospital Authority:

The spokesperson for Hong Kong West Cluster made the following announcement today (May 3):

Four patients (aged 77 to 92) in a male Medical Ward of Grantham Hospital have been confirmed as carriers of Carbapenemase-Producing Enterobacteriaceae (CPE) without clinical symptoms since April 27. The patients are currently under medical surveillance and isolation. Three patients are in serious condition owing to underlying illness, while another is in stable condition.

Furthermore, three male patients (aged 33 to 71) with chronic illnesses in an infirmary ward of Tung Wah Hospital (TWH) and one healthcare worker have presented with fever and upper respiratory symptoms since April 19. Laboratory tests for the three patients were positive for human metapneumovirus. The patients are being treated under isolation. One patient is in serious condition owing to underlying illness, while the others are in a stable condition. The healthcare worker has recovered and resumed duty.

The Hospital Infection Control Team of the hospitals have followed up with the departments concerned and experts of the Centre for Health Protection. Infection control measures in the ward have already been stepped up according to prevailing guidelines including the enhancement of cleaning and disinfection. The wards have applied stringent contact precautions and enhanced hand hygiene of staff and patients. All other patients of the aforementioned wards are under close medical surveillance. Admission to the wards concerned has been suspended. Home leave has been suspended and restricted visiting has been imposed for the infirmary ward of TWH.

The cases have been reported to the Hospital Authority Head Office and the Centre for Health Protection for necessary follow-up.

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## CHP investigates suspected food poisoning cases

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health is today (May 3) investigating a suspected outbreak of food poisoning affecting 15 persons and a food poisoning case related to the consumption of mushrooms.

The suspected outbreak of food poisoning affected nine men and six women aged 18 to 22 who developed abdominal pain, diarrhoea and nausea about 7 to 17 hours after consuming food provided by a caterer at a university in Pok Fu Lam on April 26 evening. One of them sought medical attention but did not require hospitalisation. All affected persons are in a stable condition.

"We have alerted the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department to the incident and investigations are ongoing," a spokesman for the CHP said.

Separately, the CHP is investigating a food poisoning case involving a 29-year-old female who developed hallucinations, diplopia and lethargy at home on the evening of April 30 about 14 hours after consuming mushrooms purchased from a market in the Mainland. She was admitted to Tseung Kwan O Hospital yesterday (May 2) and was discharged on the same day. She is now in a stable condition.

"Mushroom poisoning is generally acute. Common presentations include gastrointestinal symptoms such as nausea, vomiting and abdominal pain appearing shortly after ingestion. Depending on the mushroom species, patients may also have other symptoms like profuse sweating, hallucination, coma or other neurological symptoms, as well as liver failure. Death may result in severe cases," the spokesman said.

"We advise the public to buy mushrooms from reputable and reliable suppliers and not to buy mushroom products which may be mixed with unknown species. Members of the public should not pick wild mushrooms for consumption as it is difficult to distinguish edible mushroom species from inedible ones. Mixing of edible species with inedible or poisonous species of mushroom will not dilute toxicity. Cooking in most cases does not destroy toxicity. If mushroom poisoning is suspected, the patient should seek immediate medical attention and bring along any available remnant for identification," the spokesman added.

Meanwhile, to prevent food-borne diseases, members of the public are reminded to maintain personal, food and environmental hygiene at all times. When enjoying delivered food and dining out:

- Choose reliable catering supplier;
- Arrange food to be delivered at appropriate timing and consume the food immediately;
- Keep cold dishes at four degrees Celsius or below and hot-served foods above 60 degrees Celsius;
- Food should not be left at room temperature for more than two hours;
- Patronise only reliable and licensed restaurants;
- Avoid eating raw seafood;
- Be a discerning consumer in choosing cold dishes, including sashimi, sushi and raw oysters, at a buffet;
- Ensure food is thoroughly cooked before eating during a hot pot or barbecue meal;
- Handle raw and cooked foods carefully and separate them completely during the cooking process;

- Use two sets of chopsticks and utensils to handle raw and cooked food;
  - Do not patronise illegal food hawkers;
  - Drink boiled water;
  - Do not try to use salt, vinegar, wine and wasabi to kill bacteria as they are not effective; and
  - Always wash hands before eating and after going to the toilet.
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## **SFST meets Asian Development Bank President in Fiji (with photos)**

The Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury, Mr James Lau, attended the 52nd Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) in Nadi, Fiji, today (May 3) and met with the President of the ADB, Mr Takehiko Nakao.

In their meeting, Mr Lau thanked the ADB for supporting Hong Kong's capital markets through the issuance of US\$472 million of bonds, including green bonds. He also thanked Mr Nakao for his participation in speaking at one of the sessions of the Asian Financial Forum 2018. Mr Nakao said he saw the Forum as a useful platform and he would welcome the opportunity to go again.

Mr Lau added that as a leading international financial centre, Hong Kong strived to play an active role in supporting infrastructure development in Asia. He spoke about Hong Kong's efforts in promoting green bond development and urged ADB members to make use of Hong Kong's deep financial markets to raise green funding.

Mr Lau also offered to share Hong Kong's experiences in promoting a digital economy and the use of insurance-linked securities to manage catastrophe risks.

Earlier in the day, Mr Lau attended the opening session of the Annual Meeting as well as the Governors' Roundtable, various meetings and lunch, where he exchanged views with fellow members on fostering further financial co-operation.

Mr Lau will continue to attend seminars and business sessions at the Annual Meeting of the ADB in Nadi, Fiji, tomorrow (May 4).



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## Secretary for Justice visits Kowloon City District (with photos)

The Secretary for Justice, Ms Teresa Cheng, SC, visited Kowloon City District today (May 3) to tour a primary school and a support service centre for ethnic minorities and meet with District Council members.

Accompanied by the Chairman of the Kowloon City District Council (KCDC), Mr Pun Kwok-wah, and the District Officer (Kowloon City), Mr Franco Kwok, Ms Cheng first visited SKH Holy Cross Primary School, where she observed school activities on STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) and chatted with students.

Ms Cheng then went to the Support Service Centre for Ethnic Minorities in Lok Sin Tong Lee Yin Yee United Centre. The centre provides a wide range of services for children and youths. It also organises various language classes and interest groups to help ethnic minorities integrate into the community. Ms Cheng toured the centre's services and facilities, and she chatted with some ethnic minority residents to learn more about their daily lives.

Before concluding her visit, Ms Cheng met with members of the KCDC to exchange views on issues of concern.



## Five pieces of subsidiary legislation related to legal protection of Central Military Dock gazetted

The Government published five pieces of subsidiary legislation in the Gazette today (May 3) to provide suitable legal protection for the Central Military Dock and to ensure navigation safety and safety of vessels at sea. The five pieces of subsidiary legislation are:

1. the Protected Places (Amendment) Order 2019;
2. the Protected Places (Safety) (Authorized Guards) (Amendment) Order 2019;
3. the Military Installations Closed Areas (Amendment) Order 2019;
4. the Shipping and Port Control (Amendment) Regulation 2019; and
5. the Merchant Shipping (Local Vessels) (General) (Amendment) Regulation 2019.

Among the above, the Merchant Shipping (Local Vessels) (General) (Amendment) Regulation 2019 was made by the Secretary for Transport and Housing, while the remaining four were made by the Chief Executive after

consultation with the Executive Council.

A spokesman for the Security Bureau said, "According to the Exchange of Notes between the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Government of the United Kingdom on the arrangements for the future use of military sites in Hong Kong entered into force in 1994 (the Exchange of Notes), the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government shall leave free 150 metres of the eventual permanent waterfront at a place close to the Central Barracks for the re-provisioning of a military dock for the Hong Kong Garrison of the Chinese People's Liberation Army (the Garrison) upon completion of the Central reclamation works. To fulfil this responsibility, the HKSAR Government has re-provisioned the military dock as part of the relevant reclamation works.

"The Central Military Dock is a military facility to be used for defence purposes. According to Article 12 of the Law of the People's Republic of China on the Garrisoning of the HKSAR (the Garrison Law), the HKSAR Government and the Garrison shall jointly 'protect the military facilities within the HKSAR' and the HKSAR Government shall 'assist the Hong Kong Garrison in maintaining the security of the military restricted zones'. The HKSAR Government has the responsibility to legislate for the Central Military Dock locally in order to provide it with suitable legal protection. Currently, the Garrison's remaining 18 military sites in Hong Kong are protected by local laws.

"The five pieces of subsidiary legislation published in the Gazette today are to provide suitable legal protection for the Central Military Dock and to ensure navigation safety as well as the safety of vessels at sea."

Among them, the Protected Places (Amendment) Order 2019 designates the land area of the dock as a "protected place", while the Protected Places (Safety) (Authorized Guards) (Amendment) Order 2019 authorizes persons who are qualified guards employed by a company engaged by the Garrison to act as "authorized guards" to undertake the duties of "authorized guards" under the Protected Places (Safety) Ordinance (Cap 260), including guarding the dock facilities and preventing any person from entering or attempting to enter the land area of the dock without proper authority.

In addition, there are four one-storey buildings in the land area of the Central Military Dock. The Military Installations Closed Areas (Amendment) Order 2019 designates the four buildings as "closed areas" under the Military Installations Closed Areas Order (Cap 245B). No person shall enter the four buildings without an individual permit issued by the Garrison. The same arrangement applies to all other military sites.

As regards the Shipping and Port Control (Amendment) Regulation 2019 and the Merchant Shipping (Local Vessels) (General) (Amendment) Regulation 2019, they seek to designate two respective marine restrict areas at the waters off the dock, including:

1. an inner restricted area (230 metres along the harbourfront and 100 meters

off the CMD), in respect of which any vessels without the permission of the Director of Marine shall not enter, stay, anchor, moor or berth; and

2. an outer restricted area (300 metres along the harbourfront and 200 meters off the CMD, but excluding the aforementioned inner restricted area), in respect of which vessels not exceeding 60 metres long may pass through, but not stay, anchor, moor or berth unless with the permission of the Director of Marine. Vessels with a length of 60 meters or longer may enter, stay, anchor, moor or berth only with the permission of the Director of Marine.

The five pieces of subsidiary legislation will be submitted to the Legislative Council for negative vetting procedures on May 8, 2019. Subject to the vetting result, they will take effect on June 29, 2019.