

Update on measles cases

The Centre for Health Protection of the Department of Health (DH) said today (May 3) that no additional case of measles infection had been recorded as at 4pm today.

Regarding measles control measures implemented at Hong Kong International Airport (HKIA), a total of six persons had received measles vaccination at the airport vaccination station as at 6pm today, bringing the cumulative number of vaccinations given to 8 349.

From tomorrow (May 4) to May 17 (excluding Sundays and public holidays), measles vaccination will be provided to airport staff who:

- (1) Were born in or after 1967, and have not received two doses of measles vaccination, and have not been infected with measles before; or
- (2) Have laboratory evidence of testing not positive against measles antibody (IgG).

The vaccination quota for the measles vaccination station at the airport remains at 600 doses daily. The venue and operation hours of the airport vaccination station are as follows:

Venue:	Multi-function Room, HKIA Tower (Level 5, Terminal 2)
Hours:	May 3 to 17 (excluding Sundays and public holidays) 10am to 1pm 2pm to 6pm

As for the blood test service, the DH will continue to provide the measles serology test service to about 200 airport staff who were born in or after 1967 on May 7. The pilot service at the blood test station to provide measles serology testing for a total of about 200 Filipino foreign domestic helpers who are coming to or returning to work in Hong Kong will also be continued on May 7.

The venue and operation hours of the airport blood test station are as follows:

Venue:	South side before the Immigration Hall at Level 3 of Terminal 2 (non-restricted area)
Hours:	May 7 9am to 1pm

A hotline (2125 1122) has been set up for public enquiries and operates during office hours from Mondays to Fridays. A total of 3 336 enquiries have been received so far.

Update on cluster of upper respiratory infection cases in Caritas Medical Centre

The following is issued on behalf of the Hospital Authority:

Regarding an earlier announcement on a cluster of patients in the Developmental Disabilities Unit of Caritas Medical Centre with upper respiratory infection, the spokesperson for Caritas Medical Centre gave the following update today (May 3):

Three more patients in the unit (aged 6 to 7) have presented with upper respiratory symptoms. Appropriate viral tests were arranged. The test result of one patient, who is in a serious condition, was positive for human metapneumovirus. The test results of the other two patients were positive for Influenza A virus and they are in a stable condition. The patients concerned are being treated under isolation.

The hospital has informed the relatives of the patients about the situation. Infection control measures in the ward have been enhanced. All other patients in the ward are under close surveillance.

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

Update on number of dengue fever cases

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health today (May 3) reported the latest number of cases of dengue fever (DF), and again urged the public to maintain strict environmental hygiene, mosquito control and personal protective measures both locally and during travel.

From April 26 to May 2, the CHP recorded two imported DF cases. The patients had been to Indonesia and Malaysia respectively during the

incubation period.

As of yesterday (May 2), 42 cases had been confirmed this year, all of which were imported. The cases were mainly imported from Indonesia (nine), Malaysia (nine) and Thailand (seven).

DF remains endemic in some areas of Asia and beyond. The latest figures for 2019 reveal that 18 105 cases had been recorded in Thailand, 59 139 in the Philippines (which was 1.8 times the number of cases reported in the same period in 2018), 41 443 in Malaysia (which was 2.4 times the number of cases reported in the same period in 2018), 2 869 in Singapore (since December 30, 2018) and 52 482 in Vietnam (which was 3.4 times the number of cases reported in the same period in 2018). In the Americas, the latest figures indicate that 586 569 and 12 114 cases were filed in Brazil and Mexico respectively in 2019.

The public should take heed of the following advice on mosquito control:

- Thoroughly check all gully traps, roof gutters, surface channels and drains to prevent blockage;
- Scrub and clean drains and surface channels with an alkaline detergent compound at least once a week to remove any deposited mosquito eggs;
- Properly dispose of refuse, such as soft drink cans, empty bottles and boxes, in covered litter containers;
- Completely change the water of flowers and plants at least once a week. The use of saucers should be avoided if possible;
- Level irregular ground surfaces before the rainy season;
- Avoid staying in shrubby areas; and
- Take personal protective measures such as wearing loose, light-coloured, long-sleeved tops and trousers and apply insect repellent containing DEET to clothing or exposed parts of the body when doing outdoor activities.

To reduce the risk of infections spread by mosquitoes, apart from [general measures](#), travellers returning from areas affected by DF and Zika virus infection should apply insect repellent for 14 days or at least 21 days respectively upon arrival in Hong Kong. If feeling unwell, seek medical advice promptly and provide travel details to the doctor. DEET-containing insect repellents are effective and the public should take heed of the tips below:

- Read the label instructions carefully first;
- Apply right before entering an area with risk of mosquito bites;
- Apply on exposed skin and clothing;
- Use DEET of up to 30 per cent for pregnant women and up to 10 per cent for children*;
- Apply sunscreen first, then insect repellent; and
- Re-apply only when needed and follow the instructions.

* For children who travel to countries or areas where mosquito-borne diseases are endemic or epidemic and where exposure is likely, those aged two months or above can use DEET-containing insect repellents with a DEET concentration of up to 30 per cent.

The public may refer to the CHP's [tips for using insect repellents](#) for details.

HKETO, Brussels supports Hong Kong films at Far East Film Festival in Udine, Italy (with photos)

With the support of the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Brussels (HKETO, Brussels) and Create Hong Kong, Hong Kong films are enjoying a strong presence at the 21st Far East Film Festival (FEFF) in Udine, Italy from April 26 to May 4. The FEFF is the largest film festival in Europe focusing on films from the Far East, and attracts over 60 000 visitors each year.

A total of 77 films are being screened at this year's FEFF, including eight Hong Kong films, namely "A Home with a View" by Herman Yau (international festival premiere); "Hotel Soul Good" by Yan Pak-wing, "Missbehavior" by Pang Ho-cheung, "Three Husbands" by Fruit Chan, and "Still Human" by Oliver Chan (all European premieres); "Master Z: The Ip Man Legacy" by Yuen Woo-ping (European festival premiere); and "Bodies at Rest" by Renny Harlin and "Project Gutenberg" by Felix Chong (both Italian premieres). "Still Human" is also still in competition for the White Mulberry Award for First Time Director.

Two other Hong Kong films were screened in "The Odd Couple" section of this year's FEFF, in which an iconic western film faces off with its eastern counterpart. The two pairs of "cinematographic twins" are Angie Chen's "My Name Ain't Suzie" from Hong Kong as a response to Richard Quine's "The World of Suzie Wong" from the United States (US), and Ringo Lam's "City on Fire" from Hong Kong, which was paired with Quentin Tarantino's "Reservoir Dogs" from the US.

To highlight the participation of Hong Kong films in the FEFF, the HKETO, Brussels hosted a reception on May 2, (Udine time) followed by a screening of "Missbehavior". Speaking at the reception, the Deputy Representative of HKETO, Brussels, Miss Fiona Chau, said that cinema is an art that has always been highly appreciated and close to the hearts of Hong Kong people, and the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government (HKSARG) is committed to providing support to Hong Kong film industry.

Miss Chau also noted that "Still Human" is a winning project under the HKSARG's First Feature Film Initiative, which was launched in 2013 to nurture talent by providing funding for young directors to make their first commercial feature films. The film won awards for Best Actor, Best New Performer and Best New Director at the 38th Hong Kong Film Awards. She added that the HKSARG will continue to support and promote the Hong Kong film industry worldwide, including nurturing young film talents.

One of the highlights of this year's FFFF was a tribute to Hong Kong actor Anthony Wong Chau-sang, who received the Golden Mulberry for Outstanding Achievement Award. The FFFF screened Anthony Wong's debut in "My Name Ain't Suzie" and his most recent film, "Still Human".

Other film industry members from Hong Kong attending this year's FFFF are director Yan Pak-wing, writer Yim Ka-ye and producer Yvonne Chuang for "Hotel Soul Good"; director Oliver Chan and actress Crisel Consunji for "Still Human"; actresses June Lam and Yanki Ting for "Missbehavior"; director Angie Chen for "My Name Ain't Suzie"; and actress Chloe Maayan for "Three Husbands".



[Speech by STH at joint luncheon of Marine Department and Hong Kong Shipowners Association \(English only\)](#)

Following is the speech by the Secretary for Transport and Housing, Mr Frank Chan Fan, at a joint luncheon organised by the Marine Department and the Hong Kong Shipowners Association today (May 3):

Jack (Chairman of Hong Kong Shipowners Association, Mr Jack Hsu), Sai Fat (Acting Director of Marine, Mr S F Wong), members of the Hong Kong Shipowners Association, distinguished guests, colleagues, ladies and gentlemen,

Good afternoon. I am most delighted to address such a distinguished congregation of our maritime community.

The luncheon today is jointly organised by the Hong Kong Shipowners Association and the Marine Department. This longstanding tradition enshrines the collaborative relationship between the industry and the Government. In fact, Hong Kong could not have sailed this far to become an international maritime centre if we had failed to collaborate as a team. It takes both policy drive and entrepreneurship to make Hong Kong great. In terms of policies, and given our robust foundation in financial and legal services, we spare no effort to synergise value-added maritime services such as ship finance, marine insurance and dispute resolution in Hong Kong. The package of new initiatives announced by the Chief Executive in her Policy Address last year is a clear manifestation of our vision.

Policies aside, resources are essential to success. In the latest Budget announced by the Financial Secretary, he has devoted additional resources for setting up Regional Desks of our Hong Kong Shipping Registry. There is also firm commitment to inject another \$200 million, that Jack has just mentioned, into the Maritime and Aviation Training Fund. Let me take the opportunity to update you on these two fronts.

We are proud of the phenomenal growth of the Hong Kong Shipping Register over the decades. Established in 1990 with a mere total gross tonnage of six million, the size of our Shipping Register today has already exceeded 125 million gross tonnage, which accounts for nearly 10 per cent of the world's merchant fleet, and is ranked the fourth largest in the world. For the past year, the global detention rate of our ships was 0.82 per cent, as compared to the global average of 2.68 per cent. The Marine Department could not have made such a remarkable accomplishment without the unfailing support from you.

Over the years, ships flying our flag have called the Hong Kong Shipping Registry for assistance from time to time in different parts of the world. While we always endeavour to respond pronto, geographical distance and time differences can be vexing. To provide shipowners with timely response and support at times of need, we are going to establish Regional Desks in selected overseas and Mainland offices of the HKSAR Government. Together with the Marine Department Headquarters, these Regional Desks will render direct and prompt support to shipowners overseas, no matter where they are. We are working full steam to have our Regional Desks in London, Shanghai and Singapore ready to serve early next year. The network will then be gradually extended to cover Australia, North Asia and North America.

The Regional Desks will provide a suite of services such as ship registration and ship inspections. Most importantly, they can respond to Port State inspection and attend to other emergency situations as required. Among these Regional Desks, the one in London will assume another important strategic role – to enhance Hong Kong's presence in the International Maritime Organization (IMO). Together with a new expert team to be formed in the Marine Department Headquarters, our Regional Desk in London can take on a more active role in IMO's policy formulation, so as to enhance our overall influence and status in the international arena because Hong Kong is one of

major maritime centres around the globe.

Indeed, talent is a common challenge to the entire maritime industry. Over the past few years, we have invested heavily in manpower development to nurture the young for the future of our maritime industry. Gladly, our efforts under the Maritime and Aviation Training Fund (MATF) are coming to fruition.

Over the years, the MATF has benefited around 7 000 students and practitioners, with 60 per cent coming from the maritime sector. This is a remarkable achievement in only five years' time. In particular, the Sea-going Training Incentive Scheme offers a monthly subsidy of \$6,000 to seagoing cadets. The Scheme has attracted a total of 246 cadets so far. Earlier this year, we have extended our financial support to cover cadets preparing for professional examinations ashore upon completion of their cadetship training. Those awaiting promotion to the officer rank after passing their examinations may also benefit. Upon injection of an additional \$200 million into the Maritime and Aviation Training Fund, we shall launch further initiatives for supporting our aspiring seafarers.

On our front, we are pleased to welcome on board our new blood – the first batch of Assistant Marine Officers and Assistant Surveyors of Ships are with us today. With the new blood joining the Marine Department and the new cadets joining the maritime industry, this would give us new strength and vigour to serve the maritime industry better. I would like to thank the Hong Kong Shipowners Association, my colleagues in the Marine Department and everyone here for continuing to groom our future generation. One day, they will be empowered to take the lead and carry forward.

Before closing, there is yet another facilitating measure that I would like to mention. We have listened to your voices that there might be room to streamline the procedures for issuing exemptions by the Marine Department. There are also suggestions that in addition to the Director himself, senior officers in the Marine Department should also be empowered to approve these exemptions. We have taken your advice seriously. Knowing that "every minute counts" to our ship owners, we are prepared to take forward the legislative amendment to make this happen.

The initiatives I mentioned just now have one thing in common – they all demonstrate the Government's commitment to support the maritime industry as much as we can. They are certainly not exhaustive. As you are aware, we are also taking forward the work on tax incentives for ship leasing and dredging works for ultra large container ships. They are all progressing well and my colleagues will keep you posted.

Ladies and gentlemen, thank you once again for being with us today, and for contributing to the outstanding performance of our maritime industry. Given your unfailing support and dedication, I am sure Hong Kong will continue to shine. Last but not least, my warmest congratulations to the awardees, and best wishes to everyone here today. Thank you.