

[Key statistics on service demand of A&E Departments and occupancy rates in public hospitals](#)

The following is issued on behalf of the Hospital Authority:

During the winter surge, the Hospital Authority is closely monitoring the service demand of Accident and Emergency Departments and the occupancy rate in public hospitals. Key service statistics are being issued daily for public information. Details are in the appended table.

[Red flags hoisted at Stanley Main Beach and Big Wave Bay 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 (March 2) that due to big waves, red flags have been hoisted at Stanley Main Beach and Big Wave Bay Beach in Southern District, Hong Kong Island. Beach-goers are advised not to swim at these beaches.

[Red flag hoisted at Clear Water Bay Second 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 (March 2) that due to big waves, the red flag has been hoisted at Clear Water Bay

Second Beach in Sai Kung District. Beach-goers are advised not to swim at the beach.

[Territory-wide flag day today](#)

The Society of Rehabilitation and Crime Prevention, Hong Kong, has been issued a Public Subscription Permit to hold a territory-wide flag sale from 7am to 12.30pm today (March 2), a spokesman for the Social Welfare Department (SWD) said.

For enquiries, please call the SWD's hotline at 2343 2255, or the designated hotline of the 1823 Call Centre at 3142 2678. Information on flag days is available at the SWD's website (www.swd.gov.hk/en/index/site_whatsnew) and the GovHK portal (www.gov.hk/en/theme/fundraising/search). Permits for flag days containing contact information of the flag-selling organisations and information on the approved flag-selling activities have also been uploaded to the SWD's website (www.swd.gov.hk/en/index/site_pubsvc/page_controlofc/sub_recentlyap). For enquiries about the detailed flag-selling arrangements, please contact the individual flag-selling organisations.

Details of the charitable fund-raising activities covered by the Public Subscription Permit issued by the SWD have also been uploaded to the GovHK website (www.gov.hk/fundraising).

In the case of suspected fraudulent flag day activities, people should not make any donation and should immediately report the matter to the Police, the spokesman added.

[Transcript of remarks by CE at media session in Beijing](#)

Following is the transcript of remarks by the Chief Executive, Mrs Carrie Lam, at a media session in Beijing after attending the second plenary meeting of the Leading Group for the Development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area this afternoon (March 1):

Reporter: Mrs Lam, I mean on the Greater Bay Area, how exactly are Hong Kong people going to benefit from the new policies, such as the taxation relaxation one, and when is the earliest that, you know, some policies can be implemented? Secondly, during your visit to Beijing, would you discuss with

state leaders on other issues such as national security or note your report on the ban for Hong Kong National Party? Thank you.

Chief Executive: As you know, the purpose of this trip to Beijing is two-fold. One is to attend the second plenary meeting of the Greater Bay Area leading group, and the meeting has just taken place and I'm here to reveal to you some of the good measures endorsed by the leading group. Second is to attend the opening session of the National People's Congress. I will have a working meeting with the HKMAO (Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of the State Council) Director Zhang Xiaoming tomorrow, but I do not expect to go into the details of those topical issues in Hong Kong.

As far as the measures that would bring benefit to Hong Kong and Macao residents, I am very pleased that at the second plenary meeting this afternoon, the leading group under the chairmanship of Vice Premier Han Zheng has endorsed a total of eight very concrete measures, and these are the first batch of measures that we are ready to announce. I can assure you that in the year 2019 there will be other measures that will be announced with the same objective in mind. Each and every of these eight measures will bring benefits to the people of Hong Kong, whether it is in the definition of 183 days – now it is very clear that for day return trips into the Greater Bay Area, since it does not last longer than 24 hours, it is not a day in the definition of the tax policy, so Hong Kong people, whether they are scientists, researchers, teachers or entrepreneurs, will feel more comfortable to cross the border to do work in the Greater Bay Area. Another tax measure is to provide actual tax subsidies so that those talents who are being invited to work in the Greater Bay Area do not need to pay the higher personal tax in the Mainland. Each and every of these measures will bring benefits to Hong Kong. The timing is determined by the readiness of the necessary processes, and if it requires application, once the application procedure is ready, it will be put into place. They are very concrete measures. There is no question of these measures not being able to be implemented. I suspect they will be brought into effect very soon.

(Please also refer to the Chinese portion of the transcript.)