

[Hong Kong Customs seizes suspected methamphetamine \(with photo\)](#)

Hong Kong Customs yesterday (January 22) seized about 1.2 kilograms of suspected methamphetamine with an estimated market value of about \$720,000 at Hong Kong International Airport.

A female passenger arrived in Hong Kong from India yesterday morning. During Customs clearance, the batch of suspected methamphetamine was found concealed inside three cans of flour in her baggage. The woman was then arrested.

The arrested woman, aged 26, has been charged with one count of trafficking in a dangerous drug. She will appear at West Kowloon Magistrates' Courts tomorrow (January 24).

Under the Dangerous Drugs Ordinance, trafficking in a dangerous drug is a serious offence. The maximum penalty upon conviction is a fine of \$5 million and life imprisonment.

Members of the public may report any suspected drug trafficking activities to the Customs' 24-hour hotline 2545 6182 or its dedicated crime-reporting email account (crimereport@customs.gov.hk).



[Cluster of Influenza A cases in Kwai Chung Hospital](#)

The following is issued on behalf of the Hospital Authority:

The spokesperson of Kwai Chung Hospital made the following announcement

today (January 23):

Four patients (aged from 26 to 63) and one staff member of a male psychiatric ward had presented with respiratory symptoms since January 15. Appropriate viral tests had been arranged and the test results of three patients and one staff member were positive to Influenza A. The patients concerned are being treated under isolation with stable condition. The staff member has recovered and resumed duty.

Admission to the ward and visiting have been suspended. Infection control measures have already been stepped up according to established guidelines. 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.

FEHD smashes a private columbarium in Yau Ma Tei suspected of operating without a licence

â€‹The Private Columbaria Affairs Office (PCAO) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) cracked down on a private columbarium suspected of operating without a licence in Yau Ma Tei this afternoon (January 23).

The operator in this case was suspected of operating a private columbarium, including renting out niches, without a licence under the Private Columbaria Ordinance (the Ordinance).

The Court has issued a search warrant to PCAO officers to authorise them to search the captioned premises. During the operation, PCAO officers seized a number of exhibits and arrested a 64 years-old man. Meanwhile, investigation is still ongoing.

Under the Ordinance, any person who operates, keeps, manages or in any other way has control of a columbarium otherwise than under a licence commits an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine of \$2 million and imprisonment for three years; or on conviction on indictment to a fine of \$5 million and imprisonment for seven years.

A spokesman for the FEHD said, "This department will continue to take stringent enforcement actions against illegally operated private columbaria. Members of the public should not buy or rent niches from any unlicensed private columbaria.

"If members of the public detect any activities of illegally operating a private columbarium, they should immediately report to the FEHD by calling hotline 2868 0000."

Suspected MERS case reported

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health today (January 23) reported a suspected case of Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS), and again urged the public to pay special attention to safety during travel, taking due consideration of the health risks in the places they visit. The case is detailed below:

Sex	Male
Age	28
Affected area involved	Dubai, United Arab Emirates
High-risk exposure	Nil
Hospital	Princess Margaret Hospital
Condition	Stable
MERS-Coronavirus preliminary test result	Pending

"Travellers to the Middle East should avoid going to farms, barns or markets with camels; avoid contact with sick persons and animals, especially camels, birds or poultry; and avoid unnecessary visits to healthcare facilities. We strongly advise travel agents organising tours to the Middle East to abstain from arranging camel rides and activities involving direct contact with camels, which are known risk factors for acquiring MERS Coronavirus (MERS-CoV)," a spokesman for the CHP said.

Locally, the CHP's surveillance with public and private hospitals, with practising doctors and at boundary control points is firmly in place. Inbound travellers and members of the public who recently visited the Middle East and developed fever or lower respiratory symptoms within 14 days will be classified as suspected MERS cases. They will be taken to public hospitals for isolation and management until their specimens test negative for MERS-CoV.

Travellers to affected areas should maintain vigilance, adopt appropriate health precautions and take heed of personal, food and environmental hygiene. The public may visit the MERS pages of the [CHP](#) and its [Travel Health Service](#), MERS statistics in [affected areas](#), the

CHP's [Facebook Page](#) and [YouTube Channel](#), and the World Health Organization's [latest news](#) for more information and health advice. Tour leaders and tour guides operating overseas tours are advised to refer to the CHP's [health advice on MERS](#).

[Latest test results of opening-up investigation in second stage of holistic assessment strategy for Hung Hom Station Extension under Shatin to Central Link Project](#)

The latest test results of the opening-up investigation in the second stage of the holistic assessment strategy for the Hung Hom Station Extension under the Shatin to Central Link (SCL) project (as at January 23) are now available at the Highways Department's website for the SCL project (www.hyd.gov.hk/en/road_and_railway/railway_projects/scl/index.html) for reference by the public.