

# Public reminded to pay attention to marine safety when participating in major events at sea

Attention radio/TV announcers:

Please broadcast the following at suitable intervals:

In regard to the New Year's Eve countdown celebrations to be held tonight (December 31), the Marine Department reminds members of the public to pay attention to marine safety when viewing the display at sea. Parents or adults should look after their children and ensure that the children wear a lifejacket at all times. Coxswains should keep a passenger and crew list in case it is needed. In addition, passengers should note the locations of emergency exits and lifejackets, and the instructions on how to wear a lifejacket, before the vessel departs. Coxswains should refrain from speeding or overloading their vessels.

Marine Department Notice No. 196 of 2018 has been issued with regard to special marine traffic control and safety measures for tonight. Members of the public can visit the department's website ([www.mardep.gov.hk](http://www.mardep.gov.hk)) for more details.

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## Appointment to Law Reform Commission

The following is issued on behalf of the Law Reform Commission:

The Law Reform Commission (LRC) today (December 31) announced that Ms Winnie Tam Wan-chi, SC, has been appointed by the Chief Executive as a new member of the LRC for three years with effect from January 1, 2019.

Ms Tam, who is a senior counsel with broad experience in commercial (especially intellectual property) litigation, will replace Mr Eugene Fung, SC, following his completion of two three-year terms as an LRC member. The LRC believes that the substantial expertise and experience of Ms Tam in the legal sector, as well as her diverse experience of public service, would benefit the LRC in law reform.

The Secretary for Justice, Ms Teresa Cheng, SC, who is also Chairman of the LRC, thanked Mr Fung for his valuable contribution and advice to the LRC over the years.

With this latest appointment, the LRC will comprise the following

members:

Secretary for Justice (Chairman)  
Professor Lin Feng  
Ms Christine Fang  
Mr Robert Y H Pang, SC  
Professor Michael Hor  
Professor Christopher Gane  
Mr Allan Leung  
Ms Alexandra Lo  
Ms Melissa Wu  
Mr Justice Andrew Cheung Kui-nung  
Ms Winnie Tam Wan-chi, SC  
The Chief Justice of the Court of Final Appeal (ex-officio member)  
The Law Draftsman (ex-officio member)

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## [Update on cases of Legionnaires' disease](#)

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health today (December 31) 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 December 23 to 29, one community-acquired LD case was reported. The female patient, aged 69 with good past health, lives in Block 15, Treasure Spot Garden (Phase 4), Tai Po.

"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 December 29, 105 LD cases had been reported in 2018. In 2017 and 2016, there were 72 and 75 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 ( $\mu\text{m}$ ) 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 the 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  $\mu\text{m}$  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.

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## [Auction of personalised vehicle registration marks on January 20 and 27](#)

The Transport Department (TD) today (December 31) announced that two auctions of personalised vehicle registration marks (PVRMs) will be held on January 20 (Sunday) and 27 (Sunday) at Meeting Room S221, L2, Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre, Wan Chai.

"A total of 236 and 225 approved PVRMs will be put up for public auction. The lists of the marks were posted on the department's website, [www.td.gov.hk](http://www.td.gov.hk), today," a department spokesman said.

The reserve price of all these marks is \$5,000. Applicants who have paid a deposit of \$5,000 should also participate in the bidding (including the first bid at the reserve price). Otherwise, the PVRM concerned may be sold to another bidder at the reserve price.

People who wish to participate in the bidding at the auction should take note of the following important points:

- (i) Paddle bidding will be used at this auction;
- (ii) The display of a PVRM on a motor vehicle should be in compliance with the requirements stipulated in Schedule 4 of the Road Traffic (Registration and Licensing of Vehicles) Regulations;
- (iii) Any change to the arrangement of letters, numerals and blank spaces of a PVRM, i.e. single and two rows as auctioned, will not be allowed;
- (iv) Purchasers must make payment of the purchase price through the Easy Pay System (EPS), or by crossed cheque and complete the Memorandum of Sale of PVRM immediately after the bidding of the PVRM concerned. Subsequent alteration of the particulars in the memorandum will not be permitted. For an auctioned mark paid for by cheque, the first three working days after the

date of auction will be required for cheque clearance confirmation before processing of the application for mark assignment can be completed; and

(v) The purchaser shall, within 12 months after the date of auction, apply to the Commissioner for Transport for the PVRM to be assigned to a motor vehicle registered in the name of the purchaser. If the purchaser fails to assign the PVRM within 12 months, allocation of the PVRM will be cancelled and arranged for re-allocation in accordance with the statutory provision without prior notice to the purchaser.

"Upon completion of the Memorandum of Sale of PVRM, the purchaser will be issued a receipt and a Certificate of Allocation of Personalised Registration Mark. The Certificate of Allocation will serve to prove the holdership of the PVRM. Potential buyers of vehicles bearing a PVRM should check the Certificate of Allocation with the sellers and pay attention to the details therein. For transfer of vehicle ownership, this certificate together with other required documents should be sent to the Transport Department for processing," the spokesman said.

For other auction details, please refer to the Guidance Notes – Auction of PVRM, which is available at the department's licensing offices or can be downloaded from its website, [www.td.gov.hk](http://www.td.gov.hk).

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## **[Information about provision of open space in private developments under lease available on GeoInfo Map](#)**

The Lands Department (LandsD) announced today (December 31) that information about Provision of Open Space required under lease for use by the public in private developments completed in or after 1980 is now available on the [GeoInfo Map](#) to facilitate public access.

The public can make enquiries to the relevant District Lands Office for the information on a particular public open space.