

CHP investigates two food poisoning clusters

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health is today (November 20) investigating two epidemiologically linked food poisoning clusters affecting seven persons, and reminded the public to maintain personal, food and environmental hygiene to prevent foodborne diseases.

The first cluster involved one male and three females aged between 26 and 28, who developed abdominal pain, diarrhoea, nausea, vomiting and fever about 6.5 to 57 hours after they had lunch at Tono Daikiya Japanese Restaurant in Tsim Sha Tsui on November 10.

The second cluster involved two males and one female aged between 37 and 43, who developed abdominal pain, diarrhoea, nausea and fever about 38 to 54 hours after they had dinner at the same restaurant on November 14.

Three of the affected persons sought medical advice. None required hospitalisation.

Initial investigations by the CHP revealed that the affected persons had consumed common food and the food concerned were durian paste, shrimp sashimi and salmon sashimi.

Personnel from the Centre for Food Safety (CFS) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department have conducted an inspection at the restaurant, took food samples for laboratory testing, and instructed the premises concerned to suspend serving of incriminated food items with immediate effect, carry out cleaning and disinfection of the premises and improve food preparation process and food hygiene. The officers have also provided health education related to food safety and environmental hygiene to the staff of the premises.

The CHP and CFS's investigation is ongoing and it cannot rule out that the number of cases will increase. The CHP appeals to persons who have consumed the said food items from the aforementioned restaurant between November 10 and 14 to seek medical advice as soon as possible if they feel unwell.

To prevent foodborne diseases, members of the public are reminded to maintain personal, food and environmental hygiene at all times. When dining out, one should:

- Choose pasteurised eggs, egg products or dried egg powder for dishes that often use lightly cooked or uncooked eggs;
- 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;
 - Store and reheat pre-cooked or leftover foods properly before consumption;
 - Ensure food is thoroughly cooked before eating during a hotpot 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 foods;
 - Avoid patronising illegal food hawkers;
 - Drink boiled water;
 - Refrain from trying to use salt, vinegar, wine or 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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WSD urges public to be alert to fraudulent SMS message

The Water Supplies Department (WSD) today (November 20) alerted the public to a fraudulent SMS message purportedly issued by the department.

The WSD recently received enquiries from members of the public concerning an SMS message purportedly issued by the department. The message requested that recipients settle outstanding payments and click a link (<https://wsd-gov.com>), which is not a WSD website address. The department has reported the case to the Police.

The WSD clarified that it did not send the SMS message in question and will not direct customers to other websites with hyperlinks embedded in an SMS message. The WSD reminded that the department is registered in SMS Sender Registration Scheme by the Office of the Communications Authority. All SMS messages issued by the department will include the prefix "#" in the SMS Sender ID for easy identification by the public.

Anyone who has provided his or her personal information to the website concerned should contact the Police. For enquiries, please call the WSD's customer enquiry hotline at 2824 5000.

Conclusion of auction of radio spectrum in 850/900 MHz and 2.3 GHz bands

The Office of the Communications Authority (OFCA) announced today (November 20) that after a total of 110 rounds of bidding in seven days, the auction of radio spectrum in the 850/900 MHz and 2.3 GHz bands was concluded. A total of 110 MHz of spectrum in 11 frequency blocks was auctioned off to four mobile network operators at total spectrum utilization fees (SUFs) of \$2,242.5 million.

The results of the auction are listed in the table below:

Frequency block	Frequency range (MHz)	Provisional successful bidder	SUF payable (\$)
A1	832.5 – 837.5 paired with 877.5 – 882.5	SmarTone Mobile Communications Limited	151,500,000
A2	885.0 – 890.0 paired with 930.0 – 935.0	Hutchison Telephone Company Limited	223,500,000
B1	2300 – 2310	Hutchison Telephone Company Limited	142,500,000
B2	2310 – 2320	Hutchison Telephone Company Limited	251,000,000
B3	2320 – 2330	China Mobile Hong Kong Company Limited	217,000,000
B4	2330 – 2340	China Mobile Hong Kong Company Limited	196,000,000
B5	2340 – 2350	China Mobile Hong Kong Company Limited	215,000,000
B6	2350 – 2360	China Mobile Hong Kong Company Limited	226,500,000
B7	2360 – 2370	China Mobile Hong Kong Company Limited	219,500,000
B8	2370 – 2380	Hong Kong Telecommunications (HKT) Limited	280,500,000
B9	2380 – 2390	Hong Kong Telecommunications (HKT) Limited	119,500,000

“The spectrum auction implements the 2023 Policy Address initiative to promote telecommunications development. Apart from using the spectrum for continued provision of fourth generation (4G) mobile communications services, successful bidders can also refarm relevant spectrum for 5G and future generations of mobile communications services (including 6G), thereby further

enhancing overall service quality and driving innovation, benefitting all citizens in Hong Kong. In addition, benefitting from the amendments to the Inland Revenue Ordinance (Cap. 112) that came into effect in January this year, mobile network operators can enjoy full tax deductions for SUFs payable on radio spectrum acquired," a spokesman for OFCA said.

The assignment of the frequency blocks will be valid for a period of 15 years. Each provisional successful bidder is required to submit a Letter of Credit by January 13, 2025, in full amount to guarantee payment of the SUF as specified in the table above. The provisional successful bidders are also required to submit performance bonds, where applicable, to ensure compliance with the network and service rollout requirement before the actual frequency assignments take effect.

In addition, the auction of the newly launched 6/7 GHz band spectrum as mentioned in the 2023 Policy Address will take place on November 25.

Speech by SCST at opening ceremony of The Fashion Union – A Platform to Celebrate the Beauty of Workwear (English only)

Following is the speech by the Secretary for Culture, Sports and Tourism, Mr Kevin Yeung, at the opening ceremony of The Fashion Union – A Platform to Celebrate the Beauty of Workwear today (November 20):

Tony (Chairman of the Vocational Training Council, Mr Tony Tai), distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

Good evening. A warm welcome to you all for joining this wonderful event, The Fashion Union – A Platform to Celebrate the Beauty of Workwear. This evening is particularly special and meaningful as the event is also the first of the groundbreaking inaugural Hong Kong Fashion Fest, the brand for the Hong Kong Fashion Design Week as announced by the Chief Executive in his 2023 Policy Address and reaffirmed in this year's Policy Address. And it will be organised annually starting this year. It is to align with the goals outlined in the National 14th Five-Year Plan, which expresses clear support for Hong Kong to develop into an East-meets-West centre for international cultural exchange. The Hong Kong Fashion Fest will consolidate various fashion design events running from today until December 4 for promoting Hong Kong's fashion and textile design brands, as well as reaffirming Hong Kong's position as a prime destination for hosting major cultural and creative events. These events will take place at various cultural landmarks and iconic

design and fashion locations in Hong Kong, engaging not only industry professionals but also the public and tourists from around the world. Together, we will immerse ourselves in the vibrant fashion design scene that defines our city.

The first event of the Hong Kong Fashion Fest, which is tonight, is organised by the Hong Kong Design Institute of Vocational Training Council and funded by the Cultural and Creative Industries Development Agency.

Workwear design has been evolving to meet the special demands of diverse jobs and industries. Today, workwear goes beyond mere practicality and functionality, embracing striking fashion elements while delivering performance. The programme will highlight the diversity and inclusivity of workwear, illustrating its transformative potential and its role in shaping modern fashion. Apart from a week-long exhibition on the history and evolution of workwear, a series of workshops, demonstrations and forums will be held in the coming days, providing a comprehensive understanding of workwear's role in the fashion world.

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to the Hong Kong Design Institute for organising this brand new event, which enhances public awareness of workwear from a fashion design perspective.

I encourage everyone to support and experience the various fashion design events throughout the Hong Kong Fashion Fest, embracing the dynamic energy and creativity that fashion brings to our city.

I wish you all a very wonderful and enjoyable time. Thank you very much.

[Hospital Authority strengthens exchanges with Zhejiang Province health institutions \(with photos\)](#)

The following is issued on behalf of the Hospital Authority:

A delegation from the Hospital Authority (HA) concluded its visit to Zhejiang Province today (November 20) to strengthen collaboration and healthcare talent exchanges among health institutions to jointly uplift the quality of healthcare sectors in the two places and benefit patients.

The delegation was led by the Chairman of the HA, Mr Henry Fan, and included the Chief Executive of the HA, Dr Tony Ko, and other executives. The delegation met with representatives of the Health Commission of Zhejiang Province and the Health Commission of Ningbo yesterday (November 19). The

delegation introduced the latest developments of the Global Healthcare Talent Scheme and various exchange programmes carried out by the HA on the Mainland. Both parties exchanged views on the development of public hospitals in Zhejiang and Hong Kong, the development of smart hospitals, and deepening collaboration and exchanges among the health institutions of the two places. The delegation also visited Ningbo Medical Center Lihuili Hospital and Sir Run Run Shaw Hospital, affiliated with the Zhejiang University School of Medicine yesterday to understand their latest developments in medical facilities and local healthcare technologies.

The delegation visited the Zhejiang University School of Medicine today to understand the curriculum of medical education and the latest developments of the three affiliated hospitals. The delegation also promoted the registration pathways for non-locally trained doctors to exchange and work in Hong Kong. Both parties also exchanged views on the training of healthcare talent and the development of public hospitals.

Mr Fan said, "This visit to Hangzhou and Ningbo in Zhejiang Province aims to learn about the development of medical institutions with high standards and the cultivation of outstanding healthcare talent. The HA hopes to deepen exchanges and collaborations with medical institutions in Zhejiang Province to promote the development of public healthcare services in the two places. The HA is actively promoting the exchange of healthcare talent, hoping to let more healthcare talent learn the working environment in Hong Kong's public hospitals, and attract more high-quality healthcare talent to work and exchange in Hong Kong, with an aim to expand the talent pool of public healthcare system in the region to cope with the growing service demand."

Mr Fan said that, apart from local healthcare talent, to dovetail with and support the national development strategy of deepening co-operation between Hong Kong and the Mainland, the HA is also enhancing exchanges with healthcare talent in both places in terms of depth and breadth, with an aim to further enhance the level of medical services of Hong Kong through mutual learning and complementary strengths.



