

Update on cases of Legionnaires' disease

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health today (August 7) reported the latest number of cases of Legionnaires' disease (LD), and stressed the importance of using and maintaining properly designed man-made water systems, adding that susceptible groups should strictly observe relevant precautions.

From July 30 to August 5, three community-acquired LD cases were reported:

1. A male patient, aged 59 with underlying illnesses, who lives in Block E, Ming Wah Dai Ha, Shau Kei Wan;
2. A male patient, aged 69 with good past health, who lives in Bonham Crest, Mid-levels; and
3. A male patient, aged 85 with underlying illnesses, who lives in Block G, Kornhill, Quarry Bay.

"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 August 5, 63 LD cases had been reported this year. In 2022 and 2021, there were 80 and 69 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 that support breathing. People may become 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.

â€‹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 (μm) 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 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 μm 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.

â€‹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.

Advisory Council on the Environment's statement on Bryde's whale incident

The following press release is issued on behalf of the Advisory Council on the Environment:

The Advisory Council on the Environment (ACE) is saddened by the recent discovery of the carcass of a young Bryde's whale in the waters near Port Shelter in Sai Kung.

The ACE noted that the Secretary for the Environment and Ecology and the relevant departments have spoken and issued press releases on the subject matter. The ACE is also aware of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD)'s and the relevant experts' efforts in monitoring and striving to tackle the issue through stepping up patrols, publicity, public education, etc, since the report of the sighting of the Bryde's whale. There were also attempts to explore ways to help the whale leave the shallow waters of Hong Kong in consultation with the experts. The ACE is in support of the four tasks announced by the Secretary for Environment and Ecology aiming to prevent recurrence of similar events in the future, which included strengthening public education, formulating a set of protocols to handle similar situations, learning from the experience of other places and reviewing and modifying the law. While understanding that law amendments will take time, the ACE hopes that the relevant departments will endeavour to implement some short-term solutions and feasible measures for handling different species that may enter the Hong Kong waters.

The ACE spokesman said, "Some people were excited about the sighting of the Bryde's whale and might have sailed the sea to watch the whale out of curiosity, posing pressure and threats to the young Bryde's whale. This unfortunate incident has taught us a valuable lesson with which the general public would resonate, that is, understanding human beings should abide by the laws of nature. After this incident, we should strengthen our understanding and conservation of the nature, learn to be members who respect and live harmoniously with the nature, and give all fauna and flora species the space they need to grow in a natural way based on the principles of understanding and mutual respect. Apart from the above, we should also enhance our learning through different channels, such as by participating in the Orienteering into the Country Parks, public guided tours and public workshops organised by the AFCD, or browsing its Hong Kong Biodiversity Online; understand more about and cherish the natural treasures of Hong Kong; and strengthen the protection and conservation of biodiversity."

HAD opens temporary heat shelters

The Home Affairs Department will continue to open 19 community halls/community centres as temporary heat shelters today (August 7).

The temporary heat shelters will remain open for people to take refuge from the heat when the Very Hot Weather Warning is in force. From 10.30pm to 8am the next day, the temporary heat shelters will also provide bedding and a sleeping place for people in need. The shelters are manned by duty attendants.

For further information, please call the department's hotline before midnight on 2572 8427.

The heat shelters are located at:

Hong Kong Island:

Central and Western –

Sai Ying Pun Community Complex Community Hall
3/F, Sai Ying Pun Community Complex
2 High Street, Sai Ying Pun

Eastern –

Causeway Bay Community Centre
3/F, 7 Fook Yum Road, Causeway Bay

Southern –

Wah Kwai Community Centre
Wah Kwai Estate, Kellett Bay

Wan Chai –

Wan Chai Activities Centre
LG/F, Wan Chai Market, 258 Queen's Road East, Wan Chai

Kowloon Districts:

Kowloon City –

Hung Hom Community Hall
1/F, Kowloon City Government Offices
42 Bailey Street, Hung Hom

Kwun Tong –

Lam Tin (West) Estate Community Centre
71 Kai Tin Road, Lam Tin

Sham Shui Po –

Lai Kok Community Hall

Lai Kok Estate, Cheung Sha Wan

Wong Tai Sin –
Tsz Wan Shan (South) Estate Community Centre
45 Wan Wah Street, Tsz Wan Shan

Yau Tsim Mong –
Henry G Leong Yaumatei Community Centre
60 Public Square Street, Yau Ma Tei

New Territories Districts:

Islands –
Tung Chung Community Hall
G/F, Tung Chung Municipal Services Building, 39 Man Tung Road, Tung Chung

Kwai Tsing –
Kwai Shing Community Hall
Podium, Block 6, Kwai Shing West Estate, Kwai Chung

North –
Cheung Wah Community Hall
Cheung Wah Estate, Fanling

Sai Kung –
Hang Hau Community Hall
G/F, Sai Kung Tseung Kwan O Government Complex, 38 Pui Shing Road, Hang Hau,
Tseung Kwan O

Sha Tin –
Lung Hang Estate Community Centre
Lung Hang Estate, Sha Tin

Tai Po –
Tai Po Community Centre
2 Heung Sze Wui Street, Tai Po

Tsuen Wan –
Lei Muk Shue Community Hall
G/F, Hong Shue House, Lei Muk Shue Estate, Tsuen Wan

Tuen Mun –
Butterfly Bay Community Centre
Butterfly Estate (near Tip Sum House), Tuen Mun

Yuen Long –
Long Ping Community Hall
Long Ping Estate, Yuen Long

Yuen Long –

Tin Yiu Community Centre
Tin Yiu Estate, Tin Shui Wai

In addition to the above heat shelters, a number of community halls/community centres can also be used for taking refuge from the heat during their operating hours. For their address details, please browse the following

document: www.had.gov.hk/file_manager/en/documents/public_services/emergency_services/List_CH_CC_Day_E.pdf.

[DoJ appeals against CFI's refusal to grant interim injunction](#)

The Department of Justice (DoJ) today (August 7) said that the Secretary for Justice has decided to appeal against the decision of the Court of First Instance (CFI) of the High Court made on July 28 to refuse granting an interim injunction for prohibiting four classes of unlawful acts relating to a song. The DoJ has filed the application for leave to appeal to the court.

"The Secretary for Justice acting as a guardian of public interest applied for the interim injunction for the purpose of discharging the constitutional responsibility of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region to safeguard national security by effectively preventing, suppressing and imposing punishment on acts or activities endangering national security, and to preserve the dignity of the National Anthem," a spokesman for the DoJ emphasised.

The DoJ's spokesman pointed out that the CFI in its judgment agreed there can be little doubt that the song, "Glory to Hong Kong" (the Song), was used to incite secession, and the four classes of acts that the application for interim injunction sought to prohibit are plainly or likely to constitute criminal activities. The court's views include:

(1) The court considered there can be little doubt that the Song was used and used effectively by people with intention to incite secession and/or sedition, and was designed to arouse anti-establishment sentiment and belief in the separation of Hong Kong from the People's Republic of China;

(2) The court also considered there is reasonable ground to believe that the existence of the videos on YouTube entitled "Hong Kong National Anthem" had contributed to the playing of the Song erroneously as the national anthem in international sports events on numerous occasions;

(3) The four classes of acts that the application for interim injunction sought to prohibit are plainly or likely to constitute criminal activities. And as the unlawful acts of insulting the National Anthem is aimed at

arousing emotion for the "independence of Hong Kong", it therefore also endangers national security; and

(4) The court hopes that its decision may serve to remedy the misconception that conducting the relevant acts does not constitute a crime.

"The CFI made the decision to refuse granting an interim injunction not because the acts in questions are legal, but because the court considered that such acts already constitute criminal offences even without the injunction, and therefore was not satisfied that the injunction would be of real utility. The court was also of the view that there is a real risk that the enforcement of the injunction would conflict with the prosecution procedure of cases concerning offence endangering national security under the Hong Kong National Security Law (NSL). The Secretary for Justice considered it necessary to appeal to put forward views and request the Court of Appeal to consider granting the interim injunction," the spokesman said.

The spokesman added, "As a matter of fact, the court's judgment has pointed out that, had the court been satisfied that the injunction is of real utility and there exists no conflict with the NSL, the court would accept the interim injunction as satisfying the proportionality test, in that the restriction imposed on freedom of expression is no more than necessary to safeguard national security and would not result in an unacceptably harsh burden on the individual, and would have held in favour of granting the interim injunction."

The Government reiterated that it is a criminal offence to disseminate or perform the Song with the intention of inciting others to commit secession or with seditious intention, or to disseminate or perform the Song as the "National Anthem of Hong Kong" with the intent to insult the National Anthem. Intentionally aiding or abetting others to commit such acts also constitutes an offence which has serious consequences. Members of the public are urged not to take their chances or attempt to break the law.

Tender of 1-year HONIA-indexed Floating Rate Notes under Institutional Bond Issuance Programme to be held on August 16

The following is issued on behalf of the Hong Kong Monetary Authority:

The Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA), as representative of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government (HKSAR Government), announced today (August 7) that a tender of 1-year HONIA-indexed Floating Rate Notes

(Notes) under the Institutional Bond Issuance Programme will be held on August 16, 2023 (Wednesday), for settlement on August 17, 2023 (Thursday).

A total of HK\$1.5 billion 1-year Notes will be tendered. The Notes will mature on August 19, 2024, and will carry interest indexed to the Hong Kong Dollar Overnight Index Average (HONIA), payable quarterly in arrears.

Under the Institutional Bond Issuance Programme, tender is open only to Recognized Dealers which are appointed as Primary Dealers. Anyone wishing to apply for the Notes on offer can do so through any of the Primary Dealers on the current published list, which can be obtained from the Hong Kong Government Bonds website at www.hkgb.gov.hk. Each tender must be for an amount of HK\$50,000 or integral multiples thereof.

Tender results will be published on the HKMA's website, the Hong Kong Government Bonds website, the Refinitiv screen (HKGBINDEX), and Bloomberg (GBHK <GO>) not later than 3pm on the tender day.

HKSAR Government Institutional Bond Issuance Programme tender information

Tender information of 1-year HONIA-indexed Floating Rate Notes under the Institutional Bond Issuance Programme:

Issue Number	: 01GH2408
Stock Code	: 4272 (HKGB FRN 2408)
Tender Date and Time	: August 16, 2023 (Wednesday) : 9.30am to 10.30am
Issue and Settlement Date for Tender	: August 17, 2023 (Thursday)
Amount	
Amount on Offer	: HK\$1.5 billion
Issue Price	: At par
Maturity	: 1 year
Maturity Date	: August 19, 2024
Interest Rate	: Indexed to the sum of the annualised compounded average of daily HONIA in each interest period and the highest accepted spread at tender, subject to a minimum of 0 per cent per interest period. Details on calculation of interest rate are available at the Information Memorandum on the Hong Kong Government Bonds website at www.hkgb.gov.hk .
Interest Period	: November 17, 2023
End Dates	: February 16, 2024 : May 20, 2024 : August 19, 2024

Interest Payment Dates : November 21, 2023
February 20, 2024
May 22, 2024
August 21, 2024

Method of Tender : Competitive tender

Tender Amount : Each competitive tender must be for an amount of HK\$50,000 or integral multiples thereof. Any tender applications for the Notes must be submitted through a Primary Dealer on the current published list.

Other Details : Please see Information Memorandum available on the Hong Kong Government Bonds website at www.hkgb.gov.hk or approach Primary Dealers.

Expected Listing Date : August 18, 2023