

Very Hot Weather Warning issued

Attention TV/radio announcers:

Please broadcast the following as soon as possible:

The Hong Kong Observatory has issued the Very Hot Weather Warning.

To prevent heat stroke, avoid prolonged activities outdoors.

If engaged in outdoor work or activities, wear a wide-brimmed hat and light-coloured, loose-fitting clothes. Stay in shaded areas as much as possible.

Drink plenty of water, and avoid beverages containing caffeine or alcohol.

If you feel sick, consult a doctor right away.

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Advisory Committee on Mental Health

receive briefing by Hospital Authority on preliminary review outcomes of "Conditional Discharge" mechanism

The Advisory Committee on Mental Health (ACMH), chaired by Mr Wong Yan-lung, SC, held a meeting on July 27. Members were briefed by the Hospital Authority (HA) on the preliminary review outcomes of the "Conditional Discharge" mechanism under the Mental Health Ordinance.

The Under Secretary for Health, Dr Libby Lee, thanked members for actively expressing their views. She pointed out that the premise of the "Conditional Discharge" mechanism is to allow patients with mental disorders, upon stabilisation of condition, to return to their familiar community to continue their path of rehabilitation. However, it is of utmost importance to strike a balance between protecting the health and safety of the patients and the public, and safeguarding the rights of the patients. On this basis, the "Conditional Discharge" mechanism can be taken forward in the following four directions:

1. Improve the "Conditional Discharge" mechanism to divert the status of voluntarily admitted patients who are found to have a medical history of criminal violence or disposition to commit criminal violence to compulsory detention, so that patients will be subject to the "Conditional Discharge" mechanism if needed upon discharge

Currently, under the Mental Health Ordinance, the "Conditional Discharge" conditions could only be imposed on patients under compulsory detention and with a medical history of criminal violence or disposition to commit such violence. Hence, the mechanism does not apply to patients who are admitted voluntarily but with a medical history of criminal violence or disposition to commit such violence. To this end, the HA will revise the guidelines provided to frontline psychiatrists with a view to improving the "Conditional Discharge" mechanism. One direction of the improvements will be allowing doctors to divert patients to compulsory detention under the Mental Health Ordinance pursuant to the guidelines if the patients exhibit violent behavior or disposition to commit criminal violence, such that the "Conditional Discharge" mechanism will be applicable to these patients for them to receive appropriate follow-up and support. The Government will carefully study the relevant changes, including whether amendments to the Ordinance are necessary.

2. Enhance support to patients on "Conditional Discharge" and their carers

To support patients in medication compliance, the HA will formulate clear clinical guidelines, protocols or risk assessment tools to prescribe newer oral drugs or injections with fewer side effects for suitable patients as far as practicable. Doctors will stipulate more specific and targeted

monitoring requirements for medication compliance in the "Conditional Discharge" conditions, such as requiring observation of patients taking medication through tele-conferencing, checking the quantity of medication taken, and examining the medication compliance through blood or urine tests, in order to ensure that the patients have taken medication according to doctors' instructions.

When considering the discharge of a patient, the HA will first and foremost take into account whether the patient has sufficient community support. Moreover, the Government will strengthen support for carers so that they can effectively assist patients in complying with "Conditional Discharge" conditions, such as receiving residential care at halfway houses for a transitional period. The HA will also enhance the education for the patients and their carers for them to realise the importance of medication compliance. The HA will improve communication and co-operation among healthcare professionals, medical social workers and carers, and will enhance the education and training for healthcare professionals and medical social workers, so as to upskill them in identifying symptoms of relapse and following up with cases.

3. Recall patients whose condition has deteriorated and have violated the "Conditional Discharge" conditions to the hospital in time for treatment

In the event of deterioration of a patient's condition and his or her violation of the "Conditional Discharge" condition, the HA should identify the case at an early stage and recall the patient concerned to the hospital as early as possible if necessary. The Government will follow up on the 10 enhanced measures announced on June 9 to support persons in mental recovery or with mental health needs, including strengthening the manpower of case managers, enhancing the communication in case management between the HA and the Social Welfare Department (SWD), etc to closely monitor the condition of patients under "Conditional Discharge" and provide them with timely treatment and support.

4. Establish a case review period for patients under "Conditional Discharge"

The HA will establish a review period for the cases and conduct professional assessment for patients through the existing Multi-Disciplinary Case Conference mechanism. Under the mechanism, professional staff including case doctors, medical social workers, case managers, nurses and allied health professionals will conduct assessment for the patients taking into consideration of factors such as recovery status of the patients, family support and risk factor. Depending on the patient's condition, the "Conditional Discharge" order will be reviewed at least every two years.

Regarding the suggestion to introduce "Compulsory Treatment Order" (CTO), the Government and the ACMH are in consensus that there is currently no consistent research to support the efficacy of CTO in reducing the risk of patients exhibiting violent behavior, while its introduction will restrict the freedom of patients. The HA will improve the "Conditional Discharge" mechanism in accordance with the aforementioned directions. There is no plan

to introduce CTO at this stage.

Dr Lee said, "The Government will continue to press ahead the [10 enhanced measures announced on June 9](#) through the Health Bureau, the Labour and Welfare Bureau, the Education Bureau, the Department of Health, the SWD, the HA, non-governmental organisations and other stakeholders in the community. Multi-disciplinary services will also be provided to support persons in mental recovery or with mental health needs on all fronts."

[Fatal traffic accident in Sau Mau Ping](#)

Police are investigating a fatal traffic accident happened in Sau Mau Ping yesterday (July 27) night, in which a 59-year-old male pedestrian died.

At 7.27pm, a minibus driven by a 48-year-old man was travelling along Hong Ning Road towards Kwun Tong. When approaching near Ming Chi Street, it reportedly knocked down the 59-year-old man who was crossing the road. The male pedestrian was bumped to the opposite lane and was further hit by another minibus travelling along Hong Ning Road towards Sau Mau Ping driven by a 50-year-old man.

Sustaining serious head injuries, the male pedestrian was certified dead at scene.

The two minibus drivers were arrested for dangerous driving causing death and are being detained for enquiries.

Investigation by the Special Investigation Team of Traffic, Kowloon East is underway.

Anyone who witnessed the accident or has any information to offer is urged to contact the investigating officers on 3661 0262.

[AFCD follows up on whale appearing in Sai Kung waters](#)

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) today (July 27) continued to follow up on the whale appearing in Sai Kung waters and discussed with experts of the Ocean Park Conservation Foundation Hong Kong (OPCFHK) and conservation groups on the current conditions of the whale and exchanged views on appropriate and feasible measures to further protect

it.

The AFCD notes opinions to set up some restricted areas to protect the whale. Since the emergence of the whale are sporadic in this large stretch of waters, the area that needs special management will have to be adjusted according to actual circumstances, it is not feasible to implement such a measure without affecting other marine users. The AFCD will step up patrols together with the Hong Kong Police Force and the Marine Department. Whenever the whale surfaces to feed and in case some vessels are getting too close to it, government officers will take appropriate action immediately, including instructing nearby vessels to keep a distance and take enforcement action if the concerned person refuses to cooperate, so as to ensure the whale is free from disturbance of whale-watching vessels.

The AFCD, experts of the OPCFHK and other conservation groups all agreed that the wounds on the back of the whale were not caused by recent injuries. As the whale is in a stable condition, capable of feeding and swimming while the wounds are healing without any behavioural signs of being sick and stranded, there is currently no need for medical help or other intervening action.

As to the suggestion of guiding the whale out to the open seas, no feasible concrete options that are safe and secure have been revealed after discussing with the experts of the OPCFHK and other conservation groups. The AFCD will continue to explore appropriate and effective methods with the experts.

The AFCD reiterates that all cetaceans are protected by the Wild Animals Protection Ordinance (Cap. 170). Irresponsible whale watching behaviour may constitute an act of wilful disturbance of protected wild animals. Offenders are liable to one year's imprisonment and a fine of \$100,000 upon conviction.

For the sake of personal safety, members of the public should avoid close encounters with the whale. The AFCD will continue to step up patrols of the waters where the whale has appeared and at places including the Sai Kung Public Pier, distribute leaflets and urge public not to go on boat trips to watch the whale. They should also avoid disturbing the whale appearing in the vicinity when engaging in water sports.