

# Update on cases of Legionnaires' disease

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health today (July 2) 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 June 23 to 29, the CHP recorded two community-acquired LD cases and one imported LD case:

1. A male patient, aged 48 with underlying illnesses, who lives in Tuen Mun District;
2. A male patient, aged 77 with underlying illnesses, who had been to the Mainland during the incubation period and was classified as an imported case; and
3. A male patient, aged 62 with underlying illnesses, who lives in Wan Chai District.

"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 June 29, 51 LD cases had been recorded this year. In 2023 and 2022, there were 121 and 80 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; 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;

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.

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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 ( $\mu\text{m}$ ) 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 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.

â€‹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.

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# Open auctions for public market stalls to be held in July

The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) announced today (July 2) that open auctions for a total of 240 stalls in 38 public markets will be held in July.

The retail commodities allowed for sale in these stalls cover cooked food, frozen meat, fresh meat, fish, fruits, vegetables, ready-to-eat food, food-related dry goods and wet goods, non-food related dry goods and wet goods, service trades (including manicures, beauty and Chinese medicine practitioners), siu mei and lo mei, etc. The tenancy agreement is a three-year fixed term from August 1, with no right of renewal upon expiry of the tenancy agreement. The upset prices of the monthly rent of the stalls vary depending on the sizes, locations and vacancy periods of the individual stalls. The upset prices for the stalls in an open auction will be initially fixed at 80 per cent of the open market rent (OMR) if the stalls have been vacant for over six months, and at 60 per cent of the OMR if the vacant period has been over eight months. Relevant information is available on the FEHD website.

A spokesman for the FEHD said, "Bidders for the market stalls must be at least 18 years old and ordinarily reside in Hong Kong. To allow more people to bid for the stalls and increase customer choices by enhancing the diversity in terms of the variety of stalls, there will be a restriction on the number of stalls to be rented in the same market by a single tenant. Any person who is currently a stall tenant is not allowed to bid in the first round of auction for any stall in the same market, and will only be allowed to bid for one stall in the second round of auction. The existing tenants under the new three-year fixed term tenancy scheme (i.e. those persons who became stall tenants through the market open auctions after August 2022) are allowed to bid for a stall in the same market in the auction, but shall deliver vacant possession of the current stall to the FEHD before the effective date of commencement of the tenancy agreement. The terms and conditions of the auctions have been uploaded to the FEHD website, with details of qualifications of the bidders listed."

The date and venue of the auctions and the number of stalls are as follows:

Kowloon (except Lai Wan Market)

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Auction date: July 9 (Tuesday) (am)

Auction venue: Room 410, 4/F, Food and Environmental Hygiene Department Nam Cheong Offices and Vehicle Depot, 87 Yen Chow Street West, Kowloon

Number of stalls: 50

Lai Wan Market

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Auction date: July 9 (Tuesday) (pm)

Auction venue: Room 410, 4/F, Food and Environmental Hygiene Department Nam Cheong Offices and Vehicle Depot, 87 Yen Chow Street West, Kowloon

Number of stalls: two

Hong Kong Island (except Aberdeen Market)

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Auction date: July 10 (Wednesday) (am)

Auction venue: Room 410, 4/F, Food and Environmental Hygiene Department Nam Cheong Offices and Vehicle Depot, 87 Yen Chow Street West, Kowloon

Number of stalls: 74

Aberdeen Market

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Auction date: July 10 (Wednesday) (pm)

Auction venue: Room 410, 4/F, Food and Environmental Hygiene Department Nam Cheong Offices and Vehicle Depot, 87 Yen Chow Street West, Kowloon

Number of stalls: 14

New Territories (1)

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Auction date: July 11 (Thursday)

Auction venue: Assembly Hall, 1/F, Tai Po Community Centre, 2 Heung Sze Wui Street, Tai Po

Number of stalls: 48

New Territories (2)

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Auction date: July 16 (Tuesday)

Auction venue: Room 410, 4/F, Food and Environmental Hygiene Department Nam Cheong Offices and Vehicle Depot, 87 Yen Chow Street West, Kowloon

Number of stalls: 52

Except for the New Territories auction (1) which will be held at the Assembly Hall at 1/F, Tai Po Community Centre, 2 Heung Sze Wui Street, Tai Po, on July 11 (Thursday), the remaining auctions (including the New Territories auction (2) to be held on July 16 (Tuesday)) will be held at Room 410, 4/F, Food and Environmental Hygiene Department Nam Cheong Offices and Vehicle Depot, 87 Yen Chow Street West, Kowloon. Limited seats are available on a first-come, first-served basis. The admission tickets will be issued 30 minutes prior to the commencement of each auction. Persons who want to attend the auctions must wait at the waiting area of the auction venue and produce their Hong Kong identity card or passport for registration. The registered person will then be provided with an admission ticket for the auctions. In addition, eligible bidders after verification will be issued with a bidding paddle for the auction. The FEHD has also invited representatives of the Police, the Independent Commission Against Corruption and the Competition Commission to monitor the auctions at the auction venue in order to ensure that the open auctions are conducted in an orderly and fair manner.

Details of the open auctions and the public market stalls concerned (including stalls for open auction at reduced upset prices) have been

uploaded to the FEHD website

([www.fehd.gov.hk/english/pleasant\\_environment/tidy\\_market/open\\_auction\\_coming.html](http://www.fehd.gov.hk/english/pleasant_environment/tidy_market/open_auction_coming.html)). Bidders interested in the auctions may visit the department website or contact the respective District Environmental Hygiene Office.

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## **Cluster of Human Metapneumovirus in North District Hospital**

The following is issued on behalf of the Hospital Authority.

The spokesperson for North District Hospital made the following announcement today (July 2):

Four patients (aged 62 to 75) in a male medical ward have presented with respiratory symptoms since June 20. Appropriate viral tests had been arranged for the patients, and their test results were positive for Human Metapneumovirus. One of the patients had passed away due to his underlying medical conditions. The remaining three patients are being treated in isolation and are in stable condition.

Infection control measures have already been stepped up according to established guidelines. Droplet and contact precautions, hand hygiene, cleaning and disinfection of the environment and equipment have also been strengthened.

The hospital will continue to closely monitor the conditions of the patients in the ward. The cases have been reported to the Hospital Authority Head Office and the Centre for Health Protection for necessary follow up.

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## **HAD opens temporary heat shelters**

The Home Affairs Department will continue to open 19 community halls/community centres as temporary heat shelters today (July 2).

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:

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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 –  
Lei Tung Community Hall  
Lei Tung Estate, Ap Lei Chau

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

Kowloon Districts:

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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 –  
Shek Kip Mei Community Hall  
G/F, Block 42, Shek Kip Mei Estate, Sham Shui Po

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:

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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](http://www.had.gov.hk/file_manager/en/documents/public_services/emergency_services/List_CH_CC_Day_E.pdf).

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## Exchange Fund Bills tender results

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

Exchange Fund Bills tender results:

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|------------------------|-------------------|
| Tender date            | : July 2, 2024    |
| Paper on offer         | : EF Bills        |
| Issue number           | : Q2427           |
| Issue date             | : July 3, 2024    |
| Maturity date          | : October 2, 2024 |
| Amount applied         | : HK\$167,890 MN  |
| Amount allotted        | : HK\$64,629 MN   |
| Average yield accepted | : 4.42 PCT        |
| Highest yield accepted | : 4.48 PCT        |
| Pro rata ratio*        | : About 31 PCT    |
| Average tender yield   | : 4.54 PCT        |

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|------------------------|-------------------|
| Tender date            | : July 2, 2024    |
| Paper on offer         | : EF Bills        |
| Issue number           | : H2456           |
| Issue date             | : July 3, 2024    |
| Maturity date          | : January 2, 2025 |
| Amount applied         | : HK\$55,420 MN   |
| Amount allotted        | : HK\$20,400 MN   |
| Average yield accepted | : 4.35 PCT        |
| Highest yield accepted | : 4.41 PCT        |
| Pro rata ratio*        | : About 33 PCT    |
| Average tender yield   | : 4.52 PCT        |

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|------------------------|-----------------|
| Tender date            | : July 2, 2024  |
| Paper on offer         | : EF Bills      |
| Issue number           | : Y2491         |
| Issue date             | : July 3, 2024  |
| Maturity date          | : July 2, 2025  |
| Amount applied         | : HK\$14,815 MN |
| Amount allotted        | : HK\$5,000 MN  |
| Average yield accepted | : 4.26 PCT      |
| Highest yield accepted | : 4.29 PCT      |
| Pro rata ratio*        | : About 66 PCT  |



Average tender yield : 4.38 PCT

\*"Pro rata ratio" refers to the average percentage of allotment with respect to each tender participant's tendered amount at the "highest yield accepted" level.

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Hong Kong Monetary Authority tenders to be held in the week beginning July 8, 2024:

Tender date : July 9, 2024  
Paper on offer : EF Bills  
Issue number : Q2428  
Issue date : July 10, 2024  
Maturity date : October 9, 2024  
Tenor : 91 Days  
Amount on offer : HK\$65,312 MN

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Tender date : July 9, 2024  
Paper on offer : EF Bills  
Issue number : H2457  
Issue date : July 10, 2024  
Maturity date : January 8, 2025  
Tenor : 182 Days  
Amount on offer : HK\$19,000 MN