

# Chief Executive-elect receives instrument of appointment in Beijing

The Chief Executive-elect, Mr John Lee, was received by President Xi Jinping and awarded the instrument of appointment as the sixth-term Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (SAR) of the People's Republic of China by Premier Li Keqiang in Beijing today (May 30).

"I am deeply honoured by the appointment and fully aware of the great responsibility upon me. I will do my utmost to live up to the expectations of the country and the people of Hong Kong," Mr Lee said.

"I shall lead the sixth-term SAR Government with loyalty and perseverance to comprehensively and accurately implement the principle of 'one country, two systems', 'Hong Kong people administering Hong Kong' and a high degree of autonomy strictly in accordance with the Basic Law.

"This year marks the 25th anniversary of Hong Kong's return to the motherland – a testimony of the historical moment of the successful implementation of 'one country, two systems' with significant meaning. I will unite all sectors and lead the SAR Government and the people of Hong Kong to work together and strive for the well-being of Hong Kong and its people.

"Together, we will build Hong Kong into a city with long-term prosperity and a caring and inclusive society," he added.

Tomorrow (May 31), Mr Lee will meet with the Vice-Chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference and Director of the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of the State Council, Mr Xia Baolong, and return to Hong Kong.

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## Update on supplies from Mainland

The Task Force of Supplies from the Mainland led by the Transport and Housing Bureau (THB) has been working closely with the Guangdong Provincial Government and the Shenzhen Municipal People's Government to explore various means to stabilise the supply of goods from the Mainland to Hong Kong. In addition to road transport arrangements, transportation of goods by water and railway is already in service.

A spokesperson for the THB said that the "Sea Express" water transportation service from the Mainland to Hong Kong has been fully launched and its capacity is rising to increase the supplies of fresh food, other daily necessities and manufacturing materials. The current supply of fresh

food from the Mainland is stable.

Currently, there are three water transportation routes between Hong Kong and Shenzhen, namely (1) from Shenzhen Yantian International Container Terminals to Hong Kong Kwai Tsing Container Terminals (KTCT); (2) from Shenzhen DaChan Bay Terminals to KTCT; and (3) from China Merchants Port (South China) Management Center (Shenzhen Mawan, Shekou and Chiwan Container Terminals) to Hong Kong River Trade Terminal and elsewhere. Together with the water transportation routes from other cities in Guangdong Province, including the routes from Guangzhou Lianhuashan Port, Nansha Port, Huadu Port, Zhongshan Huangpu Port and Zhuhai Doumen Port to different terminals in Hong Kong, the water transport capacity amounts to tens of thousands of tonnes daily.

The spokesperson said today (May 30) that Shenzhen operated 54 cargo vessel trips and transported around 6 630 twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs) of cross-boundary supplies by water yesterday (May 29), equivalent to about 25 310 tonnes of goods, of which around 10 TEUs (about 70 tonnes) were fresh food and around 6 620 TEUs (about 25 240 tonnes) were non-fresh food, according to information from the Mainland authorities.

Since the launch of services from the three ports in Shenzhen since February 18 to yesterday, a total of around 450 670 TEUs of cross-boundary supplies have been transported, equivalent to about 2 247 920 tonnes of goods, of which around 1 780 TEUs (about 15 200 tonnes) were fresh food and around 448 890 TEUs (about 2 232 720 tonnes) were non-fresh food.

To further ensure a stable goods supply to Hong Kong through land transport, a trial run of cargo transfer was conducted by the THB at a yard situated on Kam Pok Road, San Tin, Yuen Long, and it was completed smoothly. The THB will continue to work with the Mainland authorities to fully take forward cargo transfer arrangements on the Hong Kong side. It is a contingency measure in response to the latest epidemic situation in the city so as to reduce the risk of epidemic transmission in both the Mainland and Hong Kong, ensuring both smooth cross-boundary land transport and a stable goods supply to Hong Kong.

Meanwhile, to avoid a spillover of the epidemic, the Transport Department (TD) has arranged for dedicated staff to conduct rapid antigen tests for cross-boundary goods vehicle drivers at various land boundary control points (BCPs) from February 28 onwards. Only drivers with a negative result are allowed to enter the Mainland. In order to further improve the accuracy of the tests, the TD has already switched to use rapid nucleic acid tests at the BCPs. Starting from April 21, the sampling method for rapid nucleic acid tests has been further changed to nasopharyngeal swabs. A total of 2 384 rapid nucleic acid tests were conducted yesterday in which 11 drivers preliminarily tested positive. The TD has passed the cases to the Department of Health for follow-up.

The THB will closely monitor the situation and co-operate with the Mainland authorities to facilitate and implement various measures to ensure a

stable goods supply to Hong Kong, with a view to complementing the supply through road, water and railway transport, enhancing capacity and efficiency as well as optimising the flow of cross-boundary supplies.

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## Update on cases of Legionnaires' disease

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health today (May 30) 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 May 22 to 28, five community-acquired LD cases were reported:

1. A male patient, aged 72 with underlying illnesses, who lives in Wah Po Building, 1 New Praya, Kennedy Town;
2. A male patient, aged 59 with underlying illnesses, who lives in On Yeung House, Cheung On Estate, Tsing Yi, and Choi Tung House, Tung Tau (II) Estate, Wong Tai Sin;
3. A male patient, aged 42 with underlying illnesses, who lives in Block 2, Coral Garden, Yuen Long;
4. A female patient, aged 88 with underlying illnesses, who lives in Hoy Au Lau, Yue Kwong Chuen, Aberdeen; and
5. A male patient, aged 40 with underlying illnesses, who lives in Kin Lung House, Lung Yat Estate, Tuen Mun.

"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 May 28, 24 LD cases had been reported this year. In 2021 and 2020, there were 69 and 104 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 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.

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€‹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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## **Anti-epidemic Support Scheme for Environmental Hygiene and Security Staff for Premises under the Home Affairs Bureau's Purview will soon be launched**

The Government fully recognises and appreciates the frontline property management (PM) workers (i.e. cleaning and security workers) who have been carrying out their duties with dedication during the pandemic. Further to the announcement on March 19 on the extension of the scope of the subsidy to the relevant workers under the sixth round of the Anti-epidemic Fund (AEF 6.0) and upon review of the actual situation of the frontline PM workers of premises under the Home Affairs Bureau (HAB)'s purview, the HAB announced today (May 30) that the Anti-epidemic Support Scheme for Environmental Hygiene and Security Staff for Premises under the Home Affairs Bureau's Purview will be launched on June 1 to provide the same monthly allowance of \$2,000 to the frontline PM workers working in the following premises for a maximum of five months (from February to June 2022):

- (a) campsites under the management of the youth uniformed groups and youth non-governmental organisations subvented by the HAB and other eligible premises;
- (b) cemeteries managed by the Board of Management of the Chinese Permanent Cemeteries;
- (c) standalone religious premises;
- (d) the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts;
- (e) facilities at the Hong Kong Sports Institute;
- (f) site offices and ancillary facilities at the Kai Tak Sports Park under the management of Kai Tak Sports Park Limited; and
- (g) standalone office and sports facilities under the management of relevant "national sports associations"/sports organisations subvented by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department.

It is estimated that around 4 000 PM workers could benefit under the scheme. The applications must be made by the relevant organisations by June 30. The total estimated expenditure for the above measure is about \$28.85 million.

For details of the scheme, please visit the website of the HAB ([www.hab.gov.hk/en/other\\_information/ASHAB.htm](http://www.hab.gov.hk/en/other_information/ASHAB.htm)).

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## **Hospital Authority announces positive patient cases detected via admission screening or testing and clusters of nosocomial COVID-19 infections**

The following is issued on behalf of the Hospital Authority:

The Hospital Authority today (May 30) announced information regarding patients who tested positive via admission screening or testing with patients or staff members identified as close contacts and nosocomial COVID-19 infection cases.

The following are the statistics of patients who tested positive via admission screening or by testing in public hospitals with patients or staff members identified as close contacts:

| Hospital/clinic    | Number of patients who tested positive | Number of patients identified as close contacts | Number of staff members without appropriate personal protective equipment identified as close contacts |
|--------------------|----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Kwong Wah Hospital | 1                                      | 1                                               | –                                                                                                      |

Thorough cleaning and disinfection operations have been performed in the affected areas by the hospital. The hospital will continue to closely monitor the health conditions of patients and staff members, and communicate with the Centre for Health Protection on the latest situation.

There have been no clusters of nosocomial infection cases reported in public hospitals today.