

[Fraudulent website related to China CITIC Bank International Limited](#)

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

The Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA) wishes to alert members of the public to a press release issued by China CITIC Bank International Limited relating to a fraudulent website, which has been reported to the HKMA. A hyperlink to the press release is available on the [HKMA website](#).

The HKMA wishes to remind the public that banks will not send SMS or e-mails with embedded hyperlinks which direct them to the banks' websites to carry out transactions. They will not ask customers for sensitive personal information, such as login passwords or one-time password, by phone, email or SMS (including via embedded hyperlinks).

Anyone who has provided his or her personal information, or who has conducted any financial transactions, through or in response to the website concerned, should contact the bank using the contact information provided in the press release, and report the matter to the Police by contacting the Cyber Security and Technology Crime Bureau of the Hong Kong Police Force at 2860 5012.

[Update on monitoring COVID-19 vaccination](#)

In the preceding week till 11.59pm on January 9, the Department of Health (DH) received 30 reports (Note 1) of adverse events following COVID-19 immunisation. No death case was reported by the Hospital Authority (HA) involving individuals who had received vaccines within 14 days before they passed away and had potential association with vaccination.

As at 8pm on January 9, over 10.23 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines had been administered for members of the public. Around 5.01 million people had received at least one dose of vaccine, accounting for 74.4 per cent of the population aged 12 or above. The DH received 6 667 reports (Note 1) of adverse events (0.07 per cent of the total vaccine doses administered). Among the death cases concerning persons who had been vaccinated, including 55 cases (Note 2) with vaccination within 14 days before they passed away (0.0005 per cent of the total vaccine doses administered), none of the death cases was associated with vaccination.

As at January 9, the Expert Committee on Clinical Events Assessment

Following COVID-19 Immunisation had concluded that 38 death cases had no causal relationship with vaccination, and preliminarily considered that 15 cases were not associated with vaccination. Two cases are still pending further information for assessment. The Expert Committee considered that there is no unusual pattern identified so far, and will continue to closely monitor the relevant situation and collect data for assessment.

According to information from the HA, during the period from December 13, 2021, to January 9, 2022, the ratio of death cases out of those without a vaccination record was 143.2 cases for every 100 000 people, whereas the ratio of death cases for those with a vaccination record was 9.5 cases for every 100 000 people. The overall death rate is similar to that recorded in the past three years. Out of those without a vaccination record, the ratio of death cases with acute stroke or acute myocardial infarction was 6.6 cases for every 100 000 people, whereas the ratio of death cases under the same category for those with a vaccination record was 0.9 cases for every 100 000 people. Furthermore, the ratio of miscarriage cases out of those without a vaccination record was 28.5 cases for every 100 000 people, whereas the ratio of miscarriage cases for those who had a vaccination record was 11.6 cases for every 100 000 people. Based on the statistical analysis of the above figures, there is no evidence that vaccination increases the risk of death or miscarriage for recipients. The relevant reference statistics will be uploaded to the thematic website for the COVID-19 Vaccination Programme.

The majority of non-death cases of adverse events received so far are relatively minor cases. The relevant details can be found in the "Report on the Safety Monitoring of COVID-19 Vaccines in Hong Kong" (www.drugoffice.gov.hk/eps/do/en/doc/Safety_Monitoring_of_COVID-19_Vaccines_in_Hong_Kong.pdf).

"The COVID-19 vaccination rate for the elderly aged 80 or above in Hong Kong is only around 25 per cent at present, meaning that 75 per cent of the elderly in that age group are in a dangerous situation, which is alarming. The Comirnaty and CoronaVac vaccines are highly effective in preventing severe cases and deaths from COVID-19. They can provide effective protection to those vaccinated in preventing serious complications and even death after infection. The Government has expanded the third dose vaccination programme to include all people who have received two doses of vaccines for a period of time. We call on members of the public who are currently eligible for a third dose to get the dose as soon as possible. As for those not yet vaccinated, especially senior citizens, chronic patients and other immunocompromised persons who face a much higher chance of death after COVID-19 infection, they should get vaccinated as early as possible for better self-protection," a Government spokesman said.

Note 1: Provisional figures. In the preceding week till 11.59pm on January 9, the DH received one report of suspected myocarditis or pericarditis involving an adolescent in the age group of 12 to 15. The case involved a male aged 13. He experienced chest pains within 10 days after receiving the second dose of the Comirnaty vaccine. His condition is stable.

Note 2: In the preceding week till 11.59pm on January 9, the DH received two

death reports involving individuals who had received COVID-19 vaccination within 14 days before passing away. The cases involved a female aged 75 and a male aged 56. There is no clinical evidence that the incidents arose from vaccination.

Fraudulent website and phishing email related to The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited

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

The Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA) wishes to alert members of the public to a press release issued by The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited relating to a fraudulent website and phishing email, which has been reported to the HKMA. A hyperlink to the press release is available on the [HKMA website](#).

The HKMA wishes to remind the public that banks will not send SMS or e-mails with embedded hyperlinks which direct them to the banks' websites to carry out transactions. They will not ask customers for sensitive personal information, such as login passwords or one-time password, by phone, email or SMS (including via embedded hyperlinks).

Anyone who has provided his or her personal information, or who has conducted any financial transactions, through or in response to the website or email concerned, should contact the bank using the contact information provided in the press release, and report the matter to the Police by contacting the Cyber Security and Technology Crime Bureau of the Hong Kong Police Force at 2860 5012.

Discussion paper on crypto-assets and stablecoins

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

The Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA) today (January 12) issued a discussion paper on crypto-assets and stablecoins (the Paper), inviting views from the industry and public on the relevant regulatory approach.

The Paper sets out the HKMA's thinking on the regulatory approach for crypto-assets particularly payment-related stablecoins. The approach has taken into account, among other things, the international recommendations, the market and regulatory landscape locally and in other major jurisdictions, and the characteristics of payment-related stablecoins. To facilitate the stakeholders in sharing their views, the HKMA has highlighted certain issues in the form of questions and answers in the Paper.

"The rapid development of crypto-assets, particularly stablecoins, is a topic of keen attention in the international regulatory community as it presents possible risks regarding monetary and financial stability. The HKMA has been closely tracking the relevant development and would like to proactively share our thinking with the public and industry," said the Chief Executive of the HKMA, Mr Eddie Yue. "We look forward to hearing the feedback from stakeholders and will draw up a risk-based, pragmatic and agile regulatory regime on this front."

The Paper is available on the [HKMA website](#). Members of the public and the industry are welcome to submit their responses by email to stablecoin_feedback@hkma.gov.hk on or before March 31, 2022.

[Arrangements for issue of Hongkong Post's "Year of the Tiger" special stamps](#)

Hongkong Post today (January 12) announced that the online advanced order service for the Lunar New Year special stamps themed on the "Year of the Tiger" and associated philatelic products to be issued on Tuesday (January 18) will be reopened effective from 8am tomorrow (January 13) to January 17.

To reduce social contacts in view of the latest development of the local epidemic situation, Hongkong Post will reopen its online advanced order service to enable customers to place their orders for the above special stamps and associated philatelic products. Customers may place their orders on Hongkong Post's online shopping mall "ShopThruPost" (shopthrupost.hongkongpost.hk) without the need of visiting the post offices. Hongkong Post will separately notify customers of the collection date of their orders.

Hongkong Post also announced that to avoid gathering of people at the post offices and observe social distancing, there will not be any hand-back date-stamping service for official first day covers/souvenir covers/private

covers on the date of issue of this set of special stamps (January 18), but collection points will be set up at all post offices to receive covers requiring the hand-back date-stamping service. These date-stamped covers will be available for collection from January 19 and customers will be advised on the collection schedule upon acceptance of the covers. In addition, the deadline of accepting orders for servicing self-provided covers will also be extended to January 17.

There will not be any change in the collection schedule for customers who have previously placed advance orders for this set of special stamps before January 4.

To join hands in fighting the virus, customers are encouraged to place their purchases online either through the online advanced order service or from the day of the new stamp issue (January 18). Those who have a genuine need to visit the post offices are advised to refrain from staying after their purchases.

Information about this set of special stamp issue is available on the Hongkong Post Stamps website at stamps.hongkongpost.hk or Hongkong Post mobile app.