

CHP investigates confirmed Mpox case

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health (DH) said today (May 6) that it is investigating a confirmed Mpox (also known as Monkeypox) case, and urged the public to heighten vigilance and avoid close physical contact with persons suspected of contracting Mpox. Meanwhile, high-risk target groups are advised to receive Mpox vaccination.

The case involves a 61-year-old male patient with underlying diseases. He had developed skin rash since April 27. He visited the Yau Ma Tei Male Social Hygiene Clinic of the DH on May 2. He is in stable condition and arrangements have been made for him to be admitted to Princess Margaret Hospital.

According to the patient, he had high-risk contacts during his visit to Big Top HK Limited, a recreational premises on Nathan Road, Mong Kok, on April 13 and 20. Furthermore, he visited Thailand between April 25 and 30. According to the patient, he had high-risk exposure in Thailand. An initial investigation revealed that no epidemiological linkages between this case and other confirmed cases recorded in Hong Kong earlier have been found so far. The CHP is continuing its epidemiological investigations of the case and will report the case to the World Health Organization.

The CHP appeals again to high-risk target groups to receive Mpox vaccination with a view to lowering the risk of infection or the possibility of having more severe symptoms after infection. Persons who experience Mpox symptoms (including rashes, fever, chills, swollen lymph nodes, exhaustion, muscle pain, and severe headaches) or suspect themselves of being infected are advised to seek medical attention and receive treatment at once, and they should not engage in activities with others during which other people may have contact with their skin rash or body fluids. Members of the public should maintain good personal and hand hygiene to prevent virus transmission or infection through contact. They should also avoid close physical contact with persons or animals suspected of infection.

The CHP had earlier set up an Mpox telephone hotline (2125 2373). The hotline operates from Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays) from 9am to 5pm, which enables those who suspect or are concerned they have had high-risk contact with confirmed patients, in particular men who have sex with men or those who have sexual practices with strangers, to make enquiries and receive relevant health advice. The CHP appeals to the public who have visited the premises on the above-mentioned dates, and those who suspect they have had high-risk contact with confirmed patients, to call the Mpox telephone hotline as soon as possible.

The DH provides vaccination service for high-risk groups of MPox. The following high-risk target groups can receive Mpox vaccination on a voluntary basis:

1. Individuals with high-risk sexual practices, e.g. having multiple sexual partners, sex workers, or having a history of sexually transmitted infection within the past 12 months;
2. Healthcare workers responsible for caring of patients with confirmed Mpox;
3. Laboratory personnel working with zoonotic pox viruses; and
4. Animal care personnel with high risk of exposure in case of Mpox occurrence in animals in Hong Kong.

High-risk target groups can receive Mpox walk-in vaccinations at all of the DH's Social Hygiene Service Clinics (SoCHS) (namely Chai Wan SoCHS, Wan Chai Male SoCHS, Wan Chai Female SoCHS, Yau Ma Tei Male SoCHS, Yau Ma Tei Female SoCHS, Yung Fung Shee SoCHS, Fanling SoCHS and Tuen Mun SoCHS). Further information of the clinics including their locations is available at www.dh.gov.hk/english/tele/tele_chc/tele_chc_shcf.html and www.dh.gov.hk/english/tele/tele_chc/tele_chc_shcm.html.

Meanwhile, the DH's Kowloon Bay Integrated Treatment Centre and Yau Ma Tei Integrated Treatment Centre, and the Hospital Authority's Special Medical Clinics at Queen Elizabeth Hospital and Princess Margaret Hospital will also provide Mpox vaccination services for their clients.

For more details, please visit the CHP's page on [Mpox](#).

[Cluster of Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus cases in Tuen Mun Hospital](#)

The following is issued on behalf of the Hospital Authority:

The spokesperson for Tuen Mun Hospital (TMH) made the following announcement today (May 6):

A 14-day-old baby girl of a Neonatal Intensive Care Unit of TMH was transferred to Hong Kong Children Hospital (HKCH) for treatment due to underlying illness. She was identified as a carrier of Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) without symptoms of infection by screening on April 29. In accordance with the prevailing infection control guidelines, TMH has performed screenings. Six more babies (three boys and three girls, aged 6 days to 5 months) of the same ward were confirmed to be MRSA carriers without any symptoms of infection.

The 14-day-old baby girl is now being treated under isolation in HKCH and in serious condition due to underlying illness. The remaining babies are currently being treated under isolation in TMH. Three of them are in serious

condition due to underlying illness, the others are stable.

The hospital is very concerned about the incident and investigating the source of infection. Moreover, the hospital has performed enhanced medical surveillance and screening of the patients in the ward concerned. The following infection control measures have been stepped up according to established guidelines:

1. Thorough cleaning and disinfection of the ward concerned, including the environment, incubators, equipment and instruments;
2. Enhanced medical surveillance of the patients and environmental screening procedures in the ward concerned; and
3. Applied stringent contact precautions and enhanced hand hygiene of staff. Family members are reminded that infection control measures must be implemented before visiting their babies.

The cases have been reported to the Hospital Authority Head Office and the Centre for Health Protection for necessary follow-up.

FSD follows up on IT system security incident

A spokesman for the Fire Services Department (FSD) said today (May 6) that the department discovered a potential personal data leakage incident on one of the IT system on May 3, while there is no evidence that relevant data have been released.

As revealed by the preliminary investigation, the FSD believes that the incident happened when the outsourced contractor handled the data migration procedure. During the process, the access right of the data was found altered without authorisation, posing a potential risk of data leakage. The data includes the surnames and telephone numbers of approximately 480 members of the public, who had reported tree collapse incidents during the Super Typhoon Saola on September 2, 2023. The data also includes personal information of about 5 000 FSD members, including their names, telephone numbers, ranks and numbers, and their postings. Among them, 960 members' incomplete identity card numbers are also involved.

The FSD has instantly contacted the outsourced contractor responsible for the system, and requested immediate suspension of the system and all of its contract jobs. The contractor's access right to the system is withdrawn to prevent data leakage. The FSD and the contractor is conducting a comprehensive review of the incident and stepping up the protective measures to prevent similar incidents. The department has also reported the incident to the Police, the Security Bureau, the Office of the Privacy Commissioner

for Personal Data and the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer.

The FSD expresses sincere apologies for the incident. The FSD has notified the affected members of the public through SMS or phone calls. In case of suspicious circumstances, they should report to the Police as soon as possible. For enquiries, please call the FSD's hotline at 2723 8787 or email to hkfsdenq@hkfsd.gov.hk.

[Speech by SJ at Leveraging Legal Strengths for Business Growth Cocktail Reception \(English only\) \(with photo\)](#)

Following are the welcome remarks by the Secretary for Justice, Mr Paul Lam, SC, at the Leveraging Legal Strengths for Business Growth Cocktail Reception today (May 6):

Ms Lau (Director-General of Investment Promotion at Invest Hong Kong, Ms Alpha Lau) distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

Good evening, and a very warm welcome to all of you, especially to our overseas guests and guests from the Mainland visiting Hong Kong to attend the 26th ICCA Congress.

Today's reception is a side event jointly organised by the Department of Justice and Invest Hong Kong, with the theme "Leveraging Legal Strengths for Business Growth". We are excited to have over 200 guests from the business sector and also the legal and dispute resolution sector from Hong Kong and around the world with us this evening. We hope to provide an opportunity to all those attending to reconnect and make new friends, and to gain firsthand information about the legal developments in Hong Kong.

Hong Kong is undoubtedly an international trade and financial centre. Facts and figures speak for themselves. Hong Kong's economy remains strong and continues to grow as an ideal place for doing business. Hong Kong's economy grew by 3.2 per cent last year, and we forecast a growth of 2.5 per cent to 3.5 per cent for 2024. Our inflation rate remained at a low rate of 1.7 per cent, with an unemployment rate just around 3 per cent. Hong Kong recorded over 11.23 million visitors in the first quarter this year, representing a 1.5 times year-on-year increment. The presence of our overseas visitors here today, adds on to our estimation of 50 million tourists for the year.

Hong Kong's success as an international trade and financial centre is made possible by its robust and reliable legal system. Under the principle of "one country, two systems", Hong Kong retains its common law system and is

the only common law jurisdiction within China. Hong Kong, with our strong legal traditions as well as an impartial, independent and transparent judicial system, provides individuals and business entities with certainty, predictability, and also a level playing field that is well-regarded internationally.

Under the national development plans of China, Hong Kong shall act as an international legal and dispute resolution services centre. We have a very strong pool of legal professionals experienced in international commercial matters who would assist their clients to set up family offices, or joint ventures in different forms in Hong Kong; and to implement M & A (mergers and acquisitions) and IPO (initial public offerings) projects, etc.

Dispute resolution is of course another strength of Hong Kong. This is why the Department of Justice fully supports the HKIAC (Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre) in hosting the 26th ICCA Congress. I said last evening at the opening ceremony of the ICCA Congress that more than 1 300 participants have registered for the event. But Justin (Co-Chair of the ICCA 2024 Hong Kong Host Committee Mr Justin D'Agostino) just told me that the figure, for some reason, has reached 1 400 and obviously some people had decided to register after the commencement of the programme, which is quite exceptional. But I said, never mind so long as they pay. I think that the number of participants is extremely impressive and beyond our expectation. I think that is the best evidence that Hong Kong remains an utmost attractive place for people and legal professionals from all parts of the world. Now, being a global business hub and also a leading centre for international arbitration, there is every reason for the Congress to be held in Hong Kong.

Arbitration is a mode of dispute resolution based on the voluntary agreement of the contracting parties. Although in practice the mode of dispute resolution is unlikely to be at the forefront of the minds of the contracting parties, it is indeed an essential part of risk management. From the perspective of the business community, in the unfortunate event that a dispute with the other party arises in future, it must be essential to ensure that the dispute can be resolved in a fair, speedy, economical and effective manner. Let me take this opportunity to summarise very briefly why arbitration in Hong Kong would satisfy these essential criteria.

Resolving commercial disputes can be costly. To address the concern in this respect, Hong Kong has maximised the funding options for arbitrations. In December 2022, we introduced the regime on outcome-related fee structures for arbitration (ORFSA) for arbitration parties and their lawyers to negotiate the fee arrangements best suited to their needs. Coupled with the third party funding of the arbitration regime introduced back in 2019, the availability of funding options and flexibility in fee arrangements would benefit arbitration parties and their lawyers.

There cannot be any doubt that arbitrations in Hong Kong are always conducted in a fair manner. The best evidence is that Hong Kong is always one of the most preferred seats for arbitration in the world, which is a reflection of people's high degree of trust and confidence in arbitrations in Hong Kong. We have leading arbitral institutions in Hong Kong such as the

HKIAC. Arbitrators are invariably eminent and experienced legal professionals including retired judges from not just Hong Kong but also other jurisdictions. Furthermore, the arbitral proceedings are subject to the supervision of our independent judiciary. Under the Basic Law, the Hong Kong court exercises independent power of adjudication, including that of final adjudication.

Resolving commercial disputes can be time consuming. Arbitration is, generally speaking, less time consuming than litigation because an arbitral award is not subject to any appeal and, in theory, final and conclusive. In other words, arbitration is meant to be a one-stop process. What is significant is that the Hong Kong court adopts a very pro-arbitration attitude so that they will only intervene in the arbitral process or set aside an arbitral award in wholly exceptional circumstances.

Whether an arbitral award can be effectively enforced is, of course, of crucial importance. An arbitral award will only be a piece of useless paper if it cannot be enforced. Arbitral awards made in Hong Kong are enforceable in Hong Kong and over 170 Contracting Parties to the New York Convention. An additional strength about Hong Kong, which is not shared by other places, is that we have concluded nine arrangements on mutual legal assistance in civil and commercial matters (with the Mainland), and three of them concern arbitration-related assistance including not only the enforcement of arbitral awards but also the grant of interim measures for preserving assets, evidence and conduct pending the conclusion of the arbitration.

The wide range of legal services, including dispute resolution services, offered by Hong Kong enable Hong Kong to play the role as a "super connector" and a "super value-adder" between the Mainland and other countries in particular under the national policies of the Belt and Road Initiative and the Greater Bay Area (Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area) Development Plan. In particular, the Greater Bay Area is a nine-plus-two megalopolis, encompassing nine cities in Guangdong plus Hong Kong and Macao, with a population of over 86 million and an estimated GDP of US\$1.7 trillion. The legal services provided by Hong Kong would allow overseas investors and businessmen to explore investment and business opportunities in the Mainland while having the option of safeguarding their interests by making use of the Hong Kong common law system, which is trustworthy and familiar to the international community.

Lastly, on a lighter note, for those visiting Hong Kong for the first time, and even for those who have been here before, no matter for how many times, I would strongly encourage you to take the opportunity to immerse yourself in Hong Kong's rich and vibrant culture. There are, of course, this reception and many other side events around the ICCA Congress. The Asia Society where we are now is actually the place for the Former Explosives Magazine of the Old Victoria Barracks in Hong Kong, is of a very unique historical value and very worth exploring. I would also recommend that you visit one of Hong Kong's most significant landmarks – the West Kowloon Cultural District, which is one of the largest cultural projects in the world that raises Hong Kong's status as an arts and culture hub connecting the world. You can easily spend a day at the Hong Kong Palace Museum. There is an

excellent exhibition concerning the Yuan Ming Palace; that's the palace that had been destroyed during the Opium War. It is very interesting, no matter what you look at, from a matter of history or art and culture, and you can easily spend a day in that area. But you have to attend the conferences first before having drinks, parties and all the cultural projects. I do hope that apart from speaking on matters of great practical importance, legal matters, business opportunities, you will find some time to enjoy Hong Kong, because I was born here, I grew up here. I really love Hong Kong. I am sure that people who have been here will easily share the same love and affection for Hong Kong. So I encourage you to enjoy your time, to maximise your time in Hong Kong.

Before I conclude, thank you again for joining us at the reception. My appreciation also goes to Invest Hong Kong for co-organising this event. Ladies and gentlemen, have a pleasant evening and an enjoyable stay in Hong Kong. Thank you very much.



[Appeal for information on missing woman in Sham Shui Po \(with photos\)](#)

Police today (May 6) appealed to the public for information on a woman who went missing in Sham Shui Po.

A Thai woman, Chui Sopsis, aged 75, went missing after she left her residence on Tai Hang Sai Street in the small hours yesterday (May 5). Her family made a report to Police on the same day.

She is about 1.57 metres tall, 60 kilograms in weight and of fat build. She has a round face with yellow complexion and short black and white hair. She was last seen wearing a pink jacket, black trousers and white slippers.

Anyone who knows the whereabouts of the missing woman or may have seen her is urged to contact the Regional Missing Persons Unit of Kowloon West on 3661 8036 or 9020 6542 or email to rmpu-kw@police.gov.hk, or contact any police station.

