

Interest rate of fifth interest payment for Silver Bond Series due 2020

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

The Hong Kong Monetary Authority, as representative of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government, announces today (December 9) the relevant per annum interest rate for the fifth interest payment of Silver Bond Series due 2020 (Issue Number 03GB2006R) (the Bonds) issued under the Retail Bond Issuance Programme of the Government Bond Programme.

According to the Issue Circular dated June 1, 2017 for the Bonds, the fifth interest payment of the Bonds is scheduled to be made on December 23, 2019, and the relevant interest rate is scheduled to be determined and announced on December 9, 2019 as the higher of the prevailing Floating Rate and Fixed Rate.

On December 9, 2019, the Floating Rate and Fixed Rate are as follows:

Floating Rate: +3.20 per cent

Fixed Rate: +2.00 per cent

Based on the Floating Rate and Fixed Rate set out above, the relevant interest rate for the fifth interest payment is determined and announced as 3.20 per cent per annum.

Effective Exchange Rate Index

The effective exchange rate index for the Hong Kong dollar on Monday, December 9, 2019 is 106.3 (up 0.1 against last Saturday's index).

The effective exchange rate index for the Hong Kong dollar on Saturday, December 7, 2019 is 106.2 (same as last Friday's index).

SHA to visit youth innovation and entrepreneurship bases in Zhongshan

The Secretary for Home Affairs, Mr Lau Kong-wah, will depart for Zhongshan tomorrow morning (December 10). He will visit youth innovation and entrepreneurship bases and learn more about the entrepreneurial environment in Zhongshan. Mr Lau will return to Hong Kong in the afternoon on the same day.

Update on cases of Legionnaires' disease

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health today (December 9) 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 December 1 to 7, one community-acquired LD case was reported, involving a female patient, aged 68 with underlying illnesses, who lives in Man Hong Apartment, 241-249 Shau Kei Wan Road, Eastern 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 December 7 this year, 102 LD cases had been reported. In 2018 and 2017, there were 105 and 72 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 (μm) 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 μm 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.

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.

Missing woman in Chai Wan located

A woman who went missing in Chai Wan has been located.

Suen Man-hung, aged 36, went missing after she left her residence in Siu Sai Wan Estate on October 16. Her family made a report to Police on December 4.

The woman returned to her residence last night (December 8). She sustained no injuries and no suspicious circumstances were detected.