

Health risk category for Air Quality Health Index may reach "Serious" level

The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) has recorded a gradual increase in pollution levels since this morning. According to the EPD forecast, it is expected that the AQHI at some general and roadside air monitoring stations may reach the "Serious" level later today (November 24).

The weather in Hong Kong today is fine and dry with some hazy, and with moderate east to northeasterly winds. Hong Kong is under the influence of a high background pollution airstream. The sunshine enhances photochemical smog activity and the rapid formation of ozone in the Pearl River Delta region. The high level of ozone has also promoted the formation of nitrogen dioxide.

According to the Hong Kong Observatory, the northeast monsoon will bring cooler weather to the south China coastal areas in the next couple of days. It will be windy with one or two rain patches over the region. It is expected that pollution levels will improve by then.

With a health risk category in the "Very High" range or above, children, the elderly and persons with existing heart or respiratory illnesses are advised to reduce physical exertion and outdoor activities to a minimum or avoid such activities. The general public are advised to reduce, or reduce to a minimum, outdoor physical exertion, and to reduce time staying outdoors, especially in areas with heavy traffic. As health effects of air pollutants may vary for individuals, persons who are in doubt or experience discomfort should seek advice from health-care professionals. The public may visit the Centre for Health Protection's website (www.chp.gov.hk/en/content/9/460/3557.html) for more information on health effects of air pollution and relevant health advice.

The Education Bureau (EDB) urges all schools to visit the EDB's website for appropriate measures to safeguard students' health and take note of changes in the index. The relevant hyperlink is as follows:www.edb.gov.hk/en/sch-admin/admin/about-activities/sch-activities-guidelines/index.html.

When the AQHI is at the "Very High" level, employers of outdoor workers performing heavy manual work are advised to assess the risk of outdoor work and take appropriate preventive measures to protect the health of their employees such as reducing outdoor physical exertion and the time of their stay outdoors, especially in areas with heavy traffic. At the "Serious" level, employers of all outdoor workers are advised to assess the risk of outdoor work and take appropriate preventive measures to protect the health of their employees.

Members of the public can check the current AQHI readings at the EPD's website (www.aqhi.gov.hk/en.html) or by calling the hotline 2827 8541.

District Council Ordinary Election voter turnout (1430)

Following are the voter turnout figures for the 2019 District Council Ordinary Election as at 2.30pm today (November 24):

District	Electorate	Turnout	Aggregate Voter Turnout Rate (%)
<u>Hong Kong Island</u>			
Central and Western	110,483	46,021	41.65%
Wan Chai	74,839	32,409	43.30%
Eastern	323,725	139,042	42.95%
Southern	151,994	64,677	42.55%
<u>Kowloon</u>			
Yau Tsim Mong	129,150	55,805	43.21%
Sham Shui Po	204,046	87,312	42.79%
Kowloon City	201,858	90,162	44.67%
Wong Tai Sin	264,040	104,971	39.76%
Kwun Tong	396,345	159,934	40.35%
<u>New Territories</u>			
Tsuen Wan	169,773	75,786	44.64%
Tuen Mun	296,282	125,902	42.49%
Yuen Long	349,322	138,429	39.63%
North	186,496	78,430	42.05%
Tai Po	187,494	83,262	44.41%
Sai Kung	274,293	117,891	42.98%

Sha Tin	419,853	187,610	44.68%
Kwai Tsing	308,771	127,176	41.19%
Islands	84,213	31,890	37.87%
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Total	4,132,977	1,746,709	42.26%

The voter turnout figures are for temporary reference only.

Members of the public may take children/family members to care centres as usual tomorrow

Attention duty announcers, radio and TV stations:

Please broadcast the following special announcement immediately, and repeat it at frequent intervals:

"The Social Welfare Department (SWD) reminded members of the public that they may take their children or family members to child care centres, centres providing after school care programmes, elderly services centres or day rehabilitation units including sheltered workshops, integrated vocational rehabilitation services centres and day activity centres as usual tomorrow (November 25). As the road and traffic conditions have not fully recovered, the SWD reminded members of the public to pay attention to traffic news before leaving home."

District Council Ordinary Election voter turnout (1330)

Following are the voter turnout figures for the 2019 District Council Ordinary Election as at 1.30pm today (November 24):

District	Electorate	Turnout	Aggregate Voter Rate (%)	Aggregate Turnout
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Hong Kong Island

Central and Western	110,483	40,115	36.31%
Wan Chai	74,839	28,272	37.78%
Eastern	323,725	121,246	37.45%
Southern	151,994	56,682	37.29%

Kowloon

Yau Tsim Mong	129,150	48,608	37.64%
Sham Shui Po	204,046	76,496	37.49%
Kowloon City	201,858	79,243	39.26%
Wong Tai Sin	264,040	91,331	34.59%
Kwun Tong	396,345	137,975	34.81%

New Territories

Tsuen Wan	169,773	65,949	38.85%
Tuen Mun	296,282	110,134	37.17%
Yuen Long	349,322	119,204	34.12%
North	186,496	68,845	36.92%
Tai Po	187,494	73,292	39.09%
Sai Kung	274,293	103,255	37.64%
Sha Tin	419,853	164,948	39.29%
Kwai Tsing	308,771	110,883	35.91%
Islands	84,213	28,197	33.48%

Total	4,132,977	1,524,675	36.89%
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The voter turnout figures are for temporary reference only.

SCED to lead business delegation to visit Malaysia and Thailand

The Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development, Mr Edward Yau, will leave Hong Kong tomorrow (November 25) to lead a 52-strong delegation, comprising businesses, professionals and start-ups to visit Malaysia and Thailand to promote Hong Kong's strengths on various fronts in the pursuit of the Belt and Road Initiative. The opportunity will be taken to foster stronger trade and economic ties and explore new business opportunities.

The delegation consists of entrepreneurs and professionals from a wide range of sectors, demonstrating Hong Kong's comprehensive and competitive edges. They include accounting, finance, insurance, real estate and infrastructure development, legal and dispute resolution, transport and logistics, energy and environmental services, manufacturing, technology and telecommunications, cultural and creative industries and start-ups.

Mr Yau said Malaysia and Thailand are both close partners of Hong Kong in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). The forthcoming mission is another step to reinforce the city's relationship with these two fast-growing ASEAN countries after the inking of the Hong Kong-ASEAN Free Trade Agreement in 2017 and the opening of the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Bangkok in this February.

The delegation will first visit Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia from November 25 to 26, to be followed by a visit to Bangkok, Thailand from November 27 to 29. Apart from meeting local government officials, business leaders and chambers of commerce, the delegates will pay visits to leading companies and the Mainland's overseas Economic and Trade Co-operation Zones there to understand the latest developments at the two places. Business matching opportunities will be staged to promote partnership and seek co-operation opportunities.

The delegates will also attend business seminars cum networking luncheons in Kuala Lumpur and Bangkok to establish connections with the business community there. Mr Yau will give keynote speeches on both occasions.

During the visit, Mr Yau will call on the Chinese Ambassadors to Malaysia and Thailand to keep them abreast of the latest developments in Hong Kong.

Mr Yau will return to Hong Kong on the evening of November 29. The Under Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development, Dr Bernard Chan, will be the Acting Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development during Mr Yau's absence.