

# TD appeals to public to pay attention to latest traffic situation

The Transport Department (TD) today (November 19) appealed to members of the public to pay attention to the traffic situation and the latest public transport service arrangement this morning before starting their journey.

As at 6am today, the latest public transport situation is as follows:

## (I) MTR

All MTR lines maintain services today. Except the Airport Express Line, the train service will end at 11pm.

Whampoa, Tsim Sha Tsui, Tsim Sha Tsui East, Hung Hom and University stations are closed. Entrances/Exits at some stations will also be closed. Train services may be suspended or adjusted due to incidents. Members of the public are advised to continue to stay tuned to the latest traffic news.

From start of service, East Rail Line service will be provided between Mong Kok East and Lo Wu/Lok Ma Chau stations (not stopping at University Station). Free shuttle bus service running between Tai Po Market and Kam Sheung Road stations will be arranged during morning and evening peak periods.

West Rail Line service will end at Austin Station. Kwun Tong Line service will end at Ho Man Tin Station.

Light Rail Route 751P is substituted by Route 706. Routes 614, 614P, 751 and 761P will be diverted. Light Rail Vehicles will not stop at Chestwood and Yau Oi stops.

## (II) Hung Hom Cross Harbour Tunnel

Due to the damage of the Administration Building and toll plaza, and the traffic management system has been damaged, the Hung Hom Cross Harbour Tunnel (both bounds) cannot be opened soon. Motorists crossing harbour must use Western Harbour Crossing and Eastern Harbour Crossing. To deal with the surge in traffic flow, the TD has urged the tunnel operators to closely monitor the situation and strengthen control measures when necessary. The TD has coordinated with franchised bus companies to increase the frequency of the cross harbour bus routes as appropriate.

## (III) Franchised bus

Major roads in Kowloon East and Yau Tsim Mong District in Kowloon are yet to be opened due to continued road blockages. Some bus routes may be temporarily diverted or suspended. The major affected road sections include Chatham Road South near the Hong Kong Polytechnic University (both bounds), Nathan Road between Argyle Street and Salisbury Road (both bounds), Hong

Chong Road (both bounds) and East Kowloon Way (both bounds). Police will implement road closure, traffic control and diversion measures depending on the traffic conditions on site.

#### (IV) Ferry services

Currently, inner harbour ferry routes have tried to strengthen their services to address the passenger demand. The TD will, together with the ferry operators and the trade, study measures to further strengthen the inner harbour ferry services and carrying capacity as far as practicable.

About 160 sets of traffic lights are still under urgent repair. Those in Yau Tsim Mong and Yuen Long are seriously affected. Motorists and pedestrians are advised to be patient and pay attention to road safety when passing through the affected junctions.

As traffic conditions and railway services may change within a short period of time, the TD urges commuters using public transport services to allow more travelling time and plan their journey in advance. Details of the latest traffic news are available at TD's website ([www.td.gov.hk/en/home/index.html](http://www.td.gov.hk/en/home/index.html)) or mobile application "HKeMobility".

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## [Red fire danger warning](#)

Attention duty announcers, radio and TV stations:

The fire danger situation today (November 19) is red and fire risk is extreme. The countryside is extremely vulnerable to fire. If you are planning to spend the day in the countryside, please take pre-cooked food for a picnic and take all measures to prevent hill fires. The penalty for lighting fires illegally in the countryside is \$25,000 and a year's imprisonment.

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## [SWD urges public not to take children/family members to care centres today](#)

Attention duty announcers, radio and TV stations:

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

"The Social Welfare Department announces that as there are still uncertain factors affecting the roads and traffic conditions, members of the public are advised not to 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 today (November 19). These centres will, however, remain open during their normal operating hours to serve those whose families cannot provide alternative care for them. Members of the public who have the need for the services mentioned may contact the service units concerned in advance."

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## **Fire Services Department urges public not to block roads**

Attention duty announcers, radio and TV stations:

Please broadcast the following message as soon as possible and repeat it at suitable intervals:

Due to the mass gatherings, a number of thoroughfares in the Kowloon district are being obstructed. The road blockages have seriously affected fire appliances and ambulances in providing fire and emergency ambulance services.

The Fire Services Department urges members of the public to stop blocking the roads immediately to enable the fire appliances and ambulances to provide prompt responses to emergency calls, safeguarding the lives and property of the general public.

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## **Transcript of remarks by CS, S for S, STH and SED at media session (with video)**

The Chief Secretary for Administration, Mr Matthew Cheung Kin-chung; the Secretary for Security, Mr John Lee; the Secretary for Transport and Housing, Mr Frank Chan Fan; and the Secretary for Education, Mr Kevin Yeung, met the media this afternoon (November 18). Following is the transcript of remarks

from the media session:

Reporter: Why are we only hearing from officials about this now? Where has the leadership from this administration been over this violent weekend of clashes – it's been left to lawmakers, social workers, teachers to try to find a solution or to de-escalate the situation, so where has the administration been? And secondly your appeal to people not to go to PolyU, there's already plans for people to go there. What other measures do you have to de-escalate the situation or to negotiate something to bring about a peaceful resolution?

Secretary for Security: Well, we are trying to de-escalate the situation, that is why there have been repeated announcements by the Police that they (protestors) should peacefully and orderly surrender themselves at designated points to the police officers. If they do that, if they do not resort to violence, then no force will be used. The Police will then take appropriate action and the whole thing can be resolved peacefully. Other things that we have done include sending medical teams, which is the Red Cross, into the campus, so as to take care of people who are in need of medical service. The Government has also formed a team comprising social workers from the Social Welfare Department and government clinical psychologists to go into the campus to take care of the minors – those who are under 16 years old – and then come with them, so that they can go with these minors together with the Police to the police station, so the whole process can be dealt with there. What is important is also the appeal by everybody to de-escalate. The Government, particularly the Police, have been appealing to everybody to peacefully and orderly leave the place. That's the best way to deal with it, because the campus has become very dangerous. It is full of weapons, full of dangerous goods, full of things that may explode all of a sudden, full of corrosive liquid, so it is already a very dangerous place. And as you have seen, fire had been set, so it is important that those who want to leave peacefully then come out, act in accordance with the police's directions. And anybody inside should leave as soon as possible.

Chief Secretary for Administration: Over the past few months, the political team under the leadership of Mrs Carrie Lam, the Chief Executive, were not sitting on our hands at all. In fact, on the contrary, we've been leaving no stone unturned over the last few months to put an end to the violence, to this uncertainty, instability, and find a viable way forward. Now we've responded fully to all the demands, to the best of our ability including withdrawing the extradition bill completely. So the whole issue is now dead and it's now really out of the agenda of Legislative Council. This is a very important demonstration of our sincerity to respond to the demands of the community – point number one.

At the same time we are adopting a three-pronged approach. On the one hand, realistically, we must put an end to violence. Unless you've gotten a peaceful environment with law and order restored to a law-abiding Hong Kong, you won't have the environment, the ambience to conduct dialogue. That's why the second prong is actually to open up channels of communication, for all sectors of the community, across the full spectrum of the community to tap

their views, to feel their pulse. In fact, all political appointees including the CE, myself and all the political appointees, have been seeing groups behind closed doors. To those people who are vociferous, or vocal, who are very angry about the Government, we have already sat down with them and had candid, frank exchanges. The whole purpose is to really build rapport, narrow the gap, at the same time identify possible options, alright? And finally, we've been very determined to tackle the whole basket of deep-seated, long entrenched fundamental social conflicts embedded in the community for years and years including, for example, land and housing supply, affordable housing, which is at the core of the whole problem; the wealth gap between the rich and the poor which divide the haves and have-nots; upward mobility for the community, youth employment opportunities and so on and so forth. And the social justice as well which is about the arguments going on at the moment. So we are doing it on three fronts and as I've said we are sparing no efforts. We'll continue to do our best, but our fundamental task, prime task before us at the moment, everybody agrees, overriding priority is to tackle violence, bring it to an end so that Hong Kong can be a peaceful community, so we can be back to our familiar Hong Kong, law-abiding Hong Kong with rule of law and independent judiciary.

Reporter: Mr Cheung, the Government has recently set up a crisis management committee to tackle the mayhem, but it seems in the past few days there is no visible improvement of the situation. What the committee has done so far apart from repeated condemnation of violence? It seems that the Government is not on the back of majority support of the people, unlike the situation in the 1967 riots. And second question is for Mr Lee. Mr Lee, as the minister in charge of the anti-mask law, under the political accountability system, will you take responsibility for not ensuring that the anti-mask law is legally watertight?

Chief Secretary for Administration: First of all the action task force actually kick-started over the weekend, in fact under my chairmanship. I convened the group myself. In the past few months, we've already gotten coordinated mechanisms working under various formats, but I thought it would be useful to bring it together as a unified body, so that it can be more efficiency and we can respond even faster, more effectively.

A good example, as reported by Mr Frank Chan, Secretary for Transport and Housing, is that we've decided to provide ferry services, free-of-charge ferry services, operating between Hung Hom and Wan Chai and also between Kowloon City and Wan Chai as soon as possible. This is because the Hung Hom Cross-Harbour Tunnel is now completely in tatters. In fact, the headquarters building has been severely savaged beyond recognition. It will take some time before it can be in operation again. So we are really trying to meet the needs of the community to make life easier for them. In other words, we provide an alternative, ferry services, and also rearrange a lot of bus routes as well. Although commuters will take a little longer time, they at least won't find it totally inaccessible to other parts of the community. This is one small thing, but if you put all things together, we can provide an environment for the community to get back to normal. Some may say that there's no tangible effect, but I would say that it takes time. But, as I

said, the ferry services is a good example. It's a very small example but it's a very good example. It will be available very shortly. Mr Lee.

Secretary for Security: Well, first of all, the judicial process hasn't come to an end yet. The judgment today is not the end of the judicial process. On Thursday (should be Wednesday), there will be another hearing and it will not be appropriate for me at this stage to make any comment when the judicial process is still ongoing.

(Please also refer to the Chinese portion of the transcript.)