

## [Police appeal to everyone to leave Hong Kong Polytechnic University](#)

At around 8am today (November 18), a large group of masked rioters who have been holed up in Hong Kong Polytechnic University suddenly charged at Police cordons, many holding petrol bombs. After repeated warnings were ignored, Police officers deployed the minimum necessary force to disperse the rioters, including the use of tear gas. The rioters are hereby warned to stop their unlawful acts.

To ensure public safety, Police appeal to everyone inside the Polytechnic University to drop their weapons and dangerous items, remove their gas masks and leave via the top level of Cheong Wan Road South Bridge in an orderly manner. They should follow Police instructions and must not charge at Police cordons.

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## [Opening remarks by STH at opening ceremony of Hong Kong Maritime Week 2019 \(English only\)](#)

Following is the opening remarks by the Chairman of the Hong Kong Maritime and Port Board and Secretary for Transport and Housing, Mr Frank Chan Fan, at the opening ceremony of Hong Kong Maritime Week 2019 today (November 18):

Distinguished guests, friends from the maritime community, ladies and gentlemen,

Good morning. First of all, let me extend my warmest welcome to you all for joining the Hong Kong Maritime Week 2019. I am delighted to see so many friends, old and new, from home and afar.

The Hong Kong Maritime Week 2019 could not have happened without your unfailing support. Amid the social unrest, your presence speaks for itself and means a lot to us and to Hong Kong.

2019 marks the fourth year of the Hong Kong Maritime Week, which has grown into a signature event for Hong Kong. Keeping up the momentum and aspiration, we bring together the global maritime community to Hong Kong where minds meet and transcend borders. After all, Hong Kong is a truly international maritime centre.

This year, over 40 events are staged by local and overseas partners. They range from international conferences, forums, to light-hearted activities such as visits, exhibitions and family fun days.

Let me highlight some key events that bear special significance. We are delighted that the International Chamber of Shipping has established its first Asian office in Hong Kong. Its launching ceremony will be held this Thursday. The Asian Logistics and Maritime Conference, our anchoring event which requires little introduction, will be held tomorrow. Apart from popular programmes and seminars organised by Lloyd's List and Mare Forum, there are several new events too. These include the Captain's Table to be held tomorrow, which is a global start-up competition organised for the first time in Hong Kong by the Young Shipping Professional Network, and certainly last but not least the Capital Link Hong Kong Forum to be held next door right after this opening ceremony.

"Alone we can do so little. Together we can do so much." Helen Keller's statement about a century ago speaks equally well today. With a sluggish economic outlook and social unrest across the globe, strong headwinds are coming our way for the entire maritime community. It is all the more important that we band together to weather the storm. With the invaluable inputs and contributions of the Hong Kong Maritime and Port Board and trade members, the Government is taking proactive measures to further the maritime industry. These include introducing tax concession for ship leasing businesses, facilitating measures to attract overseas maritime principals to Hong Kong, funding injection for maritime manpower development and service expansion of the Hong Kong Shipping Register. We are determined and committed to supporting each and every member of our maritime community, local and global.

Our voyage will not stop just because the sea is rough. Instead, we build a greener and better ship to rise above the storm. On behalf of the Hong Kong Maritime and Port Board, I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation for your unswerving support. I wish you all an enjoyable and rewarding sharing and exchange during the Hong Kong Maritime Week 2019. Thank you.

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## **Update on cases of Legionnaires' disease**

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health today (November 18) 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 November 10 to 16, two community-acquired LD cases were reported:

1. A female patient, aged 68 with underlying illnesses, who lives in Seasons Palace, 157 Kam Sheung Road, Yuen Long;
2. A female patient, aged 51 with underlying illnesses, who lives in Hang Ha Po Tsuen, Lam Tsuen, Tai Po.

"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 November 16 this year, 98 LD cases have 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 ( $\mu\text{m}$ ) 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  $\mu\text{m}$  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.

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## [Red flags hoisted at Big Wave Bay Beach and Clear Water Bay Second Beach](#)

Attention TV/radio announcers:

Please broadcast the following as soon as possible:

Here is an item of interest to swimmers.

The Leisure and Cultural Services Department announced today (November 18) that due to big waves, red flags have been hoisted at Big Wave Bay Beach

in Southern District, Hong Kong Island, and Clear Water Bay Second Beach in Sai Kung District. Beach-goers are advised not to swim at these beaches.

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## **Public Hospital Service Arrangements**

The following is issued on behalf of the Hospital Authority:

The Hospital Authority (HA) spokesperson said today (November 18) that due to traffic disruptions in various districts, some hospital and clinic services, including elective surgeries may be affected as staff cannot report duties on time. Services at the Accident and Emergency Departments and inpatient services at public hospitals are largely normal at the moment.

Patients who are not able to attend their scheduled consultation can call the clinics to reschedule the appointments later. There is no need to worry and rush for the consultation appointments. If patients do not have medication on hand, please call the clinics concerned.

HA Major Incident Control Centre will closely monitor the situation to help co-ordinate service arrangement as appropriate.