

Special boundary-crossing arrangements during Lunar New Year holidays and associated public transport service arrangements

The Transport Department (TD) today (February 8) reminded the public that the operating hours of the passenger clearance service of individual boundary control points (BCPs) will be extended during the Lunar New Year holidays, and that the following associated special traffic and transportation arrangements will be implemented.

(1) Lo Wu Control Point

On Lunar New Year Eve (February 9) and the second day of the Lunar New Year (February 11), the operating hours of the passenger clearance service of the Lo Wu Control Point will be extended to 2am on the following days (i.e. February 10 and 12). The service hours of the MTR East Rail Line will be extended correspondingly. The last train heading for Lo Wu Station will depart from Admiralty Station at 0.56am while the last train heading for Admiralty Station will depart from Lo Wu Station at 2.30am. On the evening of the second day of Lunar New Year (February 11), since other MTR lines will maintain normal operating hours, passengers using the East Rail Line during the extended service hours are advised to plan their journey in advance. They may contact the relevant public transport operators, if needed.

The Lok Ma Chau Spur Line Control Point will be closed at 10.30pm on both days (February 9 and 11) as usual. The service hours of the East Rail Line train service to and from Lok Ma Chau Station will not be extended.

(2) Shenzhen Bay Port

Shenzhen Bay Port will implement a 24-hour passenger clearance service from 6.30am on Lunar New Year Eve (February 9) to midnight of the fifth day of the Lunar New Year (February 14). In connection with this arrangement, New Lantao Bus and Citybus will operate special overnight route Nos. NB2 (Yuen Long/Tin Shui Wai-Shenzhen Bay Port) (circular route) and NB3 (Tuen Mun-Shenzhen Bay Port) respectively.

Cross-boundary coach operators will also operate additional overnight cross-boundary coach services between urban areas (including Prince Edward, Yau Ma Tei and Wan Chai) and the Shenzhen Bay Port during small hours (i.e. from midnight to 6.30am) from first day of the Lunar New Year (February 10) to the fifth day of the Lunar New Year (February 14).

(3) Lok Ma Chau Control Point

During the Lunar New Year holiday, the Lok Ma Chau Control Point will maintain a 24-hour operation. The short-haul cross-boundary coach routes plying between urban areas (including Prince Edward, Jordan, Wan Chai and Kwun Tong) and Huanggang Port, as well as the Yellow Bus plying between Lok Ma Chau (San Tin) Public Transport Interchange and Lok Ma Chau/Huanggang Port will enhance services.

In connection with Lunar New Year celebration events, the terminus of the short-haul cross-boundary coach route plying between Jordan and Huanggang Port at the Austin Road Cross Boundary Coach Terminus will temporarily be relocated to the coach pick-up and drop-off area at Wui Man Road outside Hong Kong West Kowloon Station on the first day of the Lunar New Year (February 10) and the second day of the Lunar New Year (February 11) from 8pm to midnight. On the other hand, the terminus of the short-haul cross-boundary coach route plying between Wan Chai and Huanggang Port at Exhibition Station Public Transport Interchange will temporarily be relocated to Hennessy Road (Westbound) near Southorn Centre from 4.30pm on the second day of Lunar New Year (February 11) until the reopening of the roads.

Subject to actual traffic conditions, special traffic measures may be implemented in the vicinity of San Tin Interchange, San Sham Road and the Lok Ma Chau Control Point to allowing smooth access of public transport vehicles including cross-boundary coaches, Yellow Buses, Green Minibuses and taxis to the Lok Ma Chau Control Point.

On the other hand, only those cross-boundary private cars (i.e. private cars with dual license plates of the Mainland and Hong Kong) issued with Lok Ma Chau/Huanggang Port Closed Road Permits (i.e. Permits) will be allowed to use the Lok Ma Chau Control Point between midnight and 6.30am daily from the first day of the Lunar New Year (February 10) to the fifth day of the Lunar New Year (February 14). Other cross-boundary private cars holding Permits for Shenzhen Bay, Man Kam To and Sha Tau Kok Ports must use the Shenzhen Bay Port or the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge (Hong Kong Port) instead during these periods. Cross-boundary private cars issued with Lok Ma Chau/Huanggang Port Closed Road Permits may also use the Shenzhen Bay Port or the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge (Hong Kong Port). The TD will inform relevant cross-boundary private car permit holders of the arrangement via SMS.

The TD anticipates that a large amount of passengers will use public transport services to cross the boundary via various land-based Boundary Control Points during the Lunar New Year Eve and Lunar New Year holiday, and that the waiting time for cross-boundary public transport services may be longer than usual. Passengers waiting for public transport services are advised to observe order and follow the advice of the Police and staff of the public transport operators on-site. Cross-boundary coach passengers are also advised to plan their journeys ahead and reserve tickets in advance.

A spokesman for the TD specially reminded the public that "on the night of the second day of the Lunar New Year (February 11), only the service of the MTR East Rail Line plying between Admiralty and Lo Wu will be extended, while other MTR lines and the connecting public transport services will

maintain their normal operating hours. Members of the public are advised to pay attention to the details of the public transport services concerned, and plan their journeys ahead. They may contact the relevant public transport operators if needed.

"The Government encourages visitors to carefully plan their itinerary, which includes considering an overnight stay in Hong Kong and avoiding departure via land boundary control points in the small hours, to enjoy a more diversified travel experience in Hong Kong."

Details of the special boundary-crossing arrangements and associated public transport services during the Lunar New Year holidays are available at the TD's website

(www.td.gov.hk/en/transport_in_hong_kong/land_based_cross_boundary_transport/sbca2024/index.html).

Special traffic arrangements on Lok Ma Chau and Shenzhen Bay Boundary Control Point during Lunar New Year period

In response to the special boundary-crossing arrangements between February 9 and 13 as earlier announced by the Government, Police today (February 8) reminds motorists that special traffic arrangements on Lok Ma Chau and Shenzhen Bay Boundary Control Point will be implemented during the above period, to facilitate members of the public and tourists.

Depending on traffic conditions, the following special traffic arrangements will be implemented by phases:

Lok Ma Chau Boundary Control Point

Phase I

All vehicles will use the existing driving routes to enter the boundary control point.

Phase II

- The traffic arrangements for cross-boundary private cars and goods vehicles remain unchanged, they will continue to enter the boundary control point through the Passenger Vehicles Lanes via San Tin Interchange or the Goods Vehicles Lanes respectively;
- Public transport vehicles including cross-boundary buses, minibuses and

taxis will use the Goods Vehicles Lanes on eastbound San Tin Highway or westbound Fanling Highway to enter the goods vehicle holding area via San Sham Road;

- Lok Ma Chau – Huanggang Cross-boundary shuttle buses will enter Castle Peak Road after leaving Lok Ma Chau Public Transport Interchange, and will be instructed to turn right to the Goods Vehicles lanes of San Sham Road to enter the goods vehicle holding area; and
- Vehicles in the goods vehicle holding area will be instructed to proceed to their respective drop-off areas.

Phase III

- In addition to the traffic arrangements implemented in Phase II, cross-boundary private cars will be instructed to enter the designated waiting area; and
- Vehicles in the designated waiting area will be instructed to proceed to the clearance area for departure procedures.

Shenzhen Bay Boundary Control Point

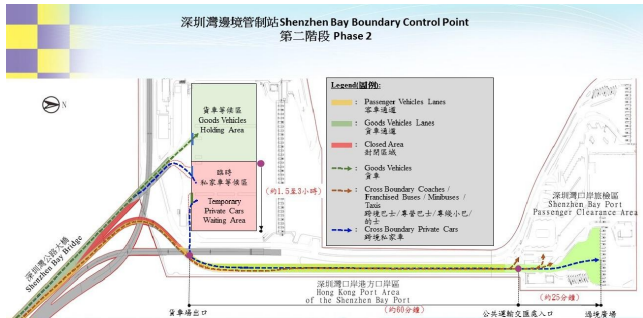
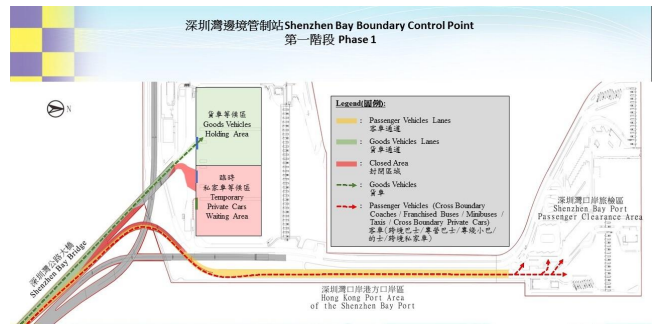
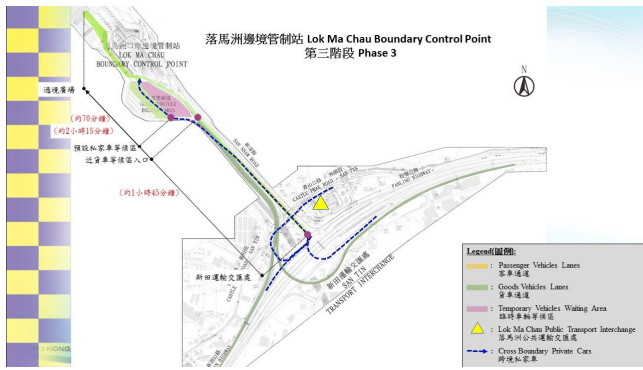
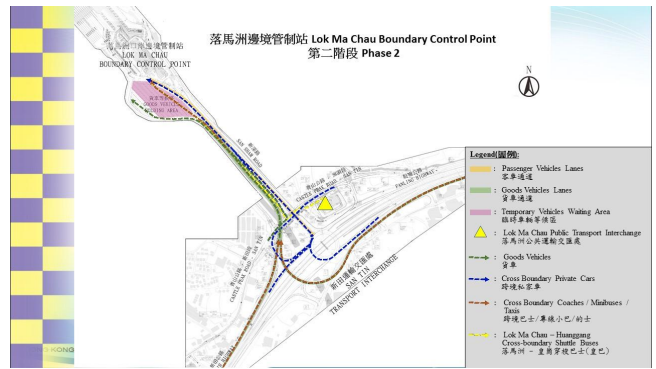
Phase I

All vehicles will use the existing driving routes to enter the boundary control point.

Phase II

- The traffic arrangements for goods vehicles remain unchanged, they will continue to enter the holding area awaiting clearance through the Goods Vehicles Lanes;
- Public transport vehicles, including cross-boundary buses, franchised buses, minibuses and taxis will continue to enter the boundary control point through the Passenger Vehicles Lanes as usual; and
- Cross-boundary private cars must keep left on the Shenzhen Bay Bridge and then enter the designated waiting area through the Goods Vehicles Lanes. Private cars will queue up and await further instructions to proceed to the clearance area for departure procedures.

Police will continue traffic enforcement action during the Lunar New Year period. Motorists are advised to exercise tolerance and patience and take heed of instructions of the Police on site.



[Red flags hoisted at Silverstrand 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 (February 8) that due to big waves, red flags have been hoisted at Silverstrand Beach and Clear Water Bay Second Beach in Sai Kung District. Beachgoers are advised not to swim at these beaches.

CHP reminds public on precautions against cold weather

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health (DH) today (February 8) reminded the public, particularly the elderly and people with chronic illnesses, to adopt appropriate measures to protect their health in view of the cold weather.

A spokesman for the CHP said that cold weather can easily trigger or exacerbate diseases, especially among the elderly and persons suffering from heart disease, respiratory illness or other chronic illnesses.

"Elderly people have less insulating fat beneath their skin to keep them warm and their body temperature control mechanism may be weaker. Their body may not be able to appropriately respond to the cold weather," the spokesman said.

Some senior persons may have decreased mobility, which can in turn impair their ability to generate and conserve body heat. Chronic illnesses, such as hypertension, diabetes and endocrine disorders may undermine the health of elderly people and lower their metabolic rate, subsequently causing their body to generate less heat. Persons with chronic illnesses such as chronic respiratory illnesses or heart disease are vulnerable to disease aggravation due to cold weather.

The CHP reminded the public, in particular the elderly and persons with chronic illnesses, to adopt the following preventive measures:

- Take note of the weather forecast. Wear warm clothing, including hats, scarves, gloves and socks accordingly;
- Consume sufficient food to ensure adequate calorie intake;
- Perform regular exercise to facilitate blood circulation and heat production;
- Stay in a warm environment and avoid prolonged outdoor exposure;
- Use heaters with care, and maintain adequate indoor ventilation; and
- Seek medical advice if feeling unwell.

In addition, the public should avoid alcoholic beverages.

"Drinking alcohol cannot keep you warm. Alcohol accelerates the loss of body heat through dilated blood vessels, resulting in chilling instead," the spokesman said.

"Parents should ensure that babies are sufficiently warm, but it is also important to keep babies relatively lightly clothed to avoid overheating them," the spokesman added.

Parents should observe the following safety measures when putting their children to bed:

- Keep the room well ventilated and at a comfortable temperature;
- Always place babies on their back to sleep. Leave their head, face and arms uncovered during sleep;
- Babies do not need pillows. Place babies on a firm and well-fitted mattress to sleep. Avoid soft objects, pillows and loose bedding;
- Let babies sleep in a cot placed in the parents' room and near their bed; and
- Maintain a smoke-free environment.

In addition, seasonal influenza vaccination is recommended for all persons aged 6 months or above except those with known contraindications. Persons at higher risk of getting influenza and its complications, including the elderly and children, should receive seasonal influenza vaccination early. Please see details of the vaccination schemes on the [CHP's website](#).

A person who gets influenza and COVID-19 at the same time may be more seriously ill and would have a higher risk of death. Influenza vaccination may reduce the likelihood of hospitalisation and the length of stay. It is important for elderly persons, especially those residing in residential care homes, to receive both seasonal influenza vaccination and COVID-19 vaccination. They should also receive an additional booster against COVID-19 according to recommendations as soon as possible. The public should also maintain good personal and environmental hygiene against respiratory illnesses and note the following:

- Surgical masks can prevent transmission of respiratory viruses from ill persons. It is essential for persons who are symptomatic (even if having mild symptoms) to wear a surgical mask;
- Wear a surgical mask when taking public transport or staying in crowded places. It is important to wear a mask properly, including performing hand hygiene before wearing and after removing a mask;
- Avoid touching one's eyes, mouth and nose;
- Wash hands with liquid soap and water properly whenever possibly contaminated;
- When hands are not visibly soiled, clean them with 70 to 80 per cent alcohol-based handrub;
- Cover the mouth and nose with tissue paper when sneezing or coughing. Dispose of soiled tissue paper properly into a lidded rubbish bin, and wash hands thoroughly afterwards;
- Maintain good indoor ventilation;
- When having respiratory symptoms, wear a surgical mask, refrain from work or attending classes at school, avoid going to crowded places and seek medical advice promptly; and
- Maintain a balanced diet, exercise regularly, take adequate rest, do not smoke and avoid overstress.

Food-borne diseases, particularly those linked to hot pot cuisine, are also common in cold weather. The following preventive measures should be

taken:

- Wash hands before handling and consuming food;
- Do not patronise unlicensed vendors or those with poor hygienic standards while selecting food;
- Wash and cook all food thoroughly;
- Vegetables should be washed thoroughly in clean running water before cooking and consumption. When appropriate, scrub vegetables with hard surfaces with a clean brush to remove dirt and substances, including pesticide residues and contaminants, from the surface and crevices;
- Shrimps should be fully cooked until the shells turn red and the flesh turns white and opaque;
- For shellfish such as scallops and geoduck, scrub the shells thoroughly and remove internal organs;
- Most hot pot ingredients should be stored in a refrigerator at 4 degrees Celsius or below, while frozen food should be stored in a freezer at -18 degrees C or below;
- Never use raw eggs as a dipping sauce for hot pot; and
- Use different sets of chopsticks to handle raw and cooked food to avoid cross-contamination.

In addition, when using fuel-burning appliances, especially in indoor areas, the public should ensure adequate ventilation to avoid harmful exposure to carbon monoxide (CO) and prevent CO poisoning.

For more health information, the public may call the DH's Health Education Infoline (2833 0111) or visit the [CHP's website](#) and [Facebook Fanpage](#).

The public may also call Dial-a-Weather (1878 200) or visit the [website of the Hong Kong Observatory](#) for the latest weather information and forecast, or its [page on Weather Information for Senior Citizens](#).

Employers and employees should take precautions during cold weather

Attention duty announcers, radio and TV stations:

Please broadcast the following special announcement immediately, and repeat it at frequent intervals when the Cold Weather Warning is in force:

The Labour Department reminds employers that as the Cold Weather Warning is in force, they should take appropriate precautions such as reminding employees who have to work outdoors or in remote areas to wear appropriately warm clothing, and make arrangements for employees to rotate from outdoor to

indoor or sheltered work sites as far as possible. Employees should take note of the weather report, wear appropriately warm clothing and be mindful of their health conditions. They should notify their supervisors and seek medical help immediately if feeling unwell, such as having cold limbs and body shivering.