

# Update on number of dengue fever cases

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health today (August 10) reported the latest number of cases of dengue fever (DF), and again urged the public to maintain strict environmental hygiene, mosquito control and personal protective measures both locally and during travel.

From July 27 to August 9, the CHP recorded four confirmed DF cases. All patients had been to Thailand during the incubation period.

As of yesterday (August 9), 55 cases had been confirmed this year, all of which were imported cases. The cases were mainly imported from Thailand (25), the Philippines (10) and Cambodia (seven).

DF remains endemic in some areas in Asia and beyond. The latest figures for 2018 reveal that 41 094 cases have been recorded in Thailand, 1 663 in Singapore (since December 31, 2017) and 73 in Japan. Thirteen local cases have been recorded to date in Taiwan in 2018. In the Americas, the latest figures indicate that 18 837 cases have been filed in Mexico in 2018.

The public should take heed of the following advice on mosquito control:

- Thoroughly check all gully traps, roof gutters, surface channels and drains to prevent blockage;
- Scrub and clean drains and surface channels with an alkaline detergent compound at least once a week to remove any deposited mosquito eggs;
- Properly dispose of refuse, such as soft drink cans, empty bottles and boxes, in covered litter containers;
- Completely change the water of flowers and plants at least once a week. The use of saucers should be avoided if possible;
- Level irregular ground surfaces before the rainy season;
- Avoid staying in shrubby areas; and
- Take personal protective measures such as wearing light-coloured long-sleeved clothes and trousers and apply insect repellent containing DEET to clothing or uncovered areas of the body when doing outdoor activities.

To reduce the risk of infections spread by mosquitoes, apart from [general measures](#), travellers returning from affected areas should apply insect repellent for 14 days (DF) or at least 21 days (Zika virus infection) upon arrival in Hong Kong. If feeling unwell, seek medical advice promptly and provide travel details to the doctor. DEET-containing insect repellents are effective and the public should take heed of the tips below:

- Read the label instructions carefully first;
- Apply right before entering an area with risk of mosquito bites;
- Apply on exposed skin and clothing;

- Use DEET of up to 30 per cent for pregnant women and up to 10 per cent for children\*;
- Apply sunscreen first, then insect repellent; and
- Re-apply only when needed and follow the instructions.

\* For children who travel to countries or areas where mosquito-borne diseases are endemic or epidemic and where exposure is likely, those aged 2 months or above can use DEET-containing insect repellents with a DEET concentration of up to 30 per cent.

The public may refer to the CHP's [tips for using insect repellents](#) for details.

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## **Effective Exchange Rate Index**

The effective exchange rate index for the Hong Kong dollar on Friday, (August 10), 2018 is 104.4 (up 0.4 against yesterday's index).

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## **SWD revokes Public Subscription Permit of Hong Kong Association of the Deaf**

The Social Welfare Department (SWD) today (August 10) announced the revocation of the Public Subscription Permit in respect of a territory-wide flag day issued to the Hong Kong Association of the Deaf (HKAD).

An SWD spokesman said that the department had served a notice on the HKAD on July 16 notifying the HKAD of the Director of Social Welfare's intention to revoke the Public Subscription Permit in respect of the territory-wide flag day to be held on September 8, 2018. The organisation could submit written representation to the Director of Social Welfare within 14 days.

The SWD has received the HKAD's written representation. After careful consideration, the Director of Social Welfare has decided to revoke the above-mentioned Public Subscription Permit. The SWD has notified the Association today that the revocation of the Public Subscription Permit will take immediate effect.

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## **EPD convictions in July**

Thirty-nine convictions were recorded in July 2018 for breaches of legislation enforced by the Environmental Protection Department (EPD).

Five of the convictions were under the Air Pollution Control Ordinance, six were under the Noise Control Ordinance, 27 were under the Waste Disposal Ordinance, and one was under the Water Pollution Control Ordinance.

The heaviest fine in July was \$25,000, assessed against a construction company for using powered mechanical equipment without a valid construction noise permit.

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## **EMSD announces test results of LPG quality in July 2018**

The Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) today (August 10) announced that the department collected eight liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) samples from auto-LPG filling stations and LPG terminals on a random basis in July 2018 for laboratory tests. The results showed that the LPG quality of all these samples complied with auto-LPG specifications.

The detailed test results are available on the EMSD's website ([www.emsd.gov.hk/emsd/eng/sgi/lpg\\_smpl\\_analysis.shtml](http://www.emsd.gov.hk/emsd/eng/sgi/lpg_smpl_analysis.shtml)). Enquiries can also be made to the EMSD's hotline on 2333 3762.

In addition, the EMSD has been vetting independent third-party test reports submitted by LPG supply companies for each shipment to ensure that the quality of imported LPG complies with the specified requirements.