

HAD opens temporary cold shelters

â€‹In view of the cold weather, the Home Affairs Department has opened 18 temporary shelters in various districts today (December 22) for people in need of the service. The temporary shelters will remain open when the Cold Weather Warning is in force.

To ensure that cold shelter users can rest in a quiet and undisturbed environment, members of the public or agencies wishing to make donations to shelter users are requested to register with the staff of the shelter first. Donors will then be directed to place the donated items at a specified indoor location. The staff will help notify the shelter users to collect the items on their own.

Anyone seeking temporary refuge or with any questions about the donation arrangements at the cold shelters may call the department's hotline 2572 8427 for more information.

The 18 temporary cold shelters are located at:

Hong Kong Island:

Central and Western:

Sai Ying Pun Community Complex Community Hall
3/F, Sai Ying Pun Community Complex,
2 High Street, Sai Ying Pun

Eastern:

Causeway Bay Community Centre
3/F, 7 Fook Yum Road, Causeway Bay

Southern:

Lei Tung Community Hall
Lei Tung Estate, Ap Lei Chau

Wan Chai:

Wan Chai Activities Centre
LG/F, Wan Chai Market, 258 Queen's Road East, Wan Chai

Kowloon:

Kowloon City:

Hung Hom Community Hall
1/F, Kowloon City Government Offices,
42 Bailey Street, Hung Hom

Kwun Tong:

Lam Tin (West) Estate Community Centre

71 Kai Tin Road, Lam Tin

Sham Shui Po:
Nam Cheong District Community Centre
1 Cheong San Lane, Sham Shui Po

Wong Tai Sin:
Tsz Wan Shan (South) Estate Community Centre
45 Wan Wah Street, Tsz Wan Shan

Yau Tsim Mong:
Henry G Leong Yaumatei Community Centre
60 Public Square Street, Yau Ma Tei

New Territories:

Islands:
Tung Chung Community Hall
G/F, Tung Chung Municipal Services Building, 39 Man Tung Road, Tung Chung

Kwai Tsing:
Tai Wo Hau Estate Community Centre
15 Tai Wo Hau Road, Kwai Chung

North:
Cheung Wah Community Hall
Cheung Wah Estate, Fanling

Sai Kung:
Hang Hau Community Hall
G/F, Sai Kung Tseung Kwan O Government Complex,
38 Pui Shing Road, Hang Hau, Tseung Kwan O

Sha Tin:
Lung Hang Estate Community Centre
Lung Hang Estate, Sha Tin

Tai Po:
Tai Po Community Centre
2 Heung Sze Wui Street, Tai Po

Tsuen Wan:
Lei Muk Shue Community Hall
G/F, Hong Shue House, Lei Muk Shue Estate, Tsuen Wan

Tuen Mun:
Butterfly Bay Community Centre
Butterfly Estate (near Tip Sum House), Tuen Mun

Yuen Long:

HAD conducts joint operation with FSD against unlicensed hotels/guesthouses and illegal club-house operations (with photos)

The Office of the Licensing Authority (OLA) of the Home Affairs Department (HAD) conducted a joint operation with the Fire Services Department codenamed "Solar Flare" against unlicensed hotels/guesthouses and illegal club-house operations for two consecutive days on December 20 and 21 by posing as clients (commonly known as "snaking") at various spots so as to ensure the safety of lodgers as well as the general public.

A spokesman for the HAD today (December 22) said, "The OLA inspected 19 premises in areas of Hong Kong Island and Kowloon during the operation. Five premises were suspected of operating unlicensed hotels/guesthouses and three licensed club-houses were suspected of being in breach of licensing conditions. The OLA will follow up all these cases and initiate prosecution of the cases with sufficient evidence after completion of the investigations."

Having regard to unlicensed hotels/guesthouses soliciting lodgers via online platforms, the OLA has strengthened its intelligence collection by forming a dedicated team to browse webpages, mobile applications, social media, discussion forums, blogs, etc, to search for information and intelligence on suspected unlicensed hotels/guesthouses. The OLA's law enforcement officers will initiate follow-up investigations when information on unlicensed hotels/guesthouses advertised via online platforms is found. The OLA also continues to combat unlicensed hotels/guesthouses through public education, and conducts publicity work on Internet search engines outside Hong Kong to enable tourists' access to the information provided by the OLA in the course of planning their trips, so that they can make use of the search functions on the OLA's website to distinguish whether the hotel/guesthouse reserved is licensed or not.

The spokesman stressed, "Operating an unlicensed hotel/guesthouse is a criminal offence and it can lead to imprisonment as well as a criminal record. Upon conviction, an offender is liable to a maximum fine of \$500,000, three years' imprisonment and a fine of \$20,000 for each day during which the offence continues. A six-month closure order may also be issued for the premises involved in a repeated offence."

ã€ã€ã€ã€

Tourists may check on the OLA's webpage (hadla.gov.hk) or through the mobile application "Hong Kong Licensed Hotels and Guesthouses" whether a hotel/guesthouse is holding a valid licence. All people should report any suspected unlicensed hotel/guesthouse to the OLA by the hotline (Tel: 2881 7498), by email (hadlaeng@had.gov.hk), by fax (2504 5805), or through the mobile application.



Special traffic and transport arrangements for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day

The Transport Department (TD) today (December 22) reminded the public that the following special traffic and transport arrangements will be implemented on December 24 and 25 to facilitate the celebrations on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

Road closures

- Road closures and traffic diversions will be implemented in the vicinities of Lan Kwai Fong in Central, Tsim Sha Tsui and the West Kowloon Cultural District in phases from 2pm on December 24. The Tsim Sha Tsui East (Mody Road) Bus Terminus and China Ferry Terminal Bus Terminus will be suspended from 6pm on that day while the Star Ferry Bus Terminus in Tsim Sha Tsui will also be suspended from 6.30pm until the reopening of closed roads for traffic. To facilitate the road closure arrangements, the bus and green minibus (GMB) routes operating in the

affected areas will be subject to diversions or suspensions, and the associated bus and GMB stops located within the affected areas will be suspended or relocated accordingly.

Adjustments on public transport services on December 24

- The services of MTR lines including Island Line, South Island Line, Tsuen Wan Line, Kwun Tong Line, East Rail Line and Tung Chung Line will be strengthened gradually from 7am;
- MTR lines (except Airport Express, Disneyland Resort Line and section of East Rail Line between Sheung Shui – Lok Ma Chau/Lo Wu, and Light Rail route Nos. 505, 507, 610, 614P, 615P, 706 and 751 will provide overnight services;
- The operating hours of Disneyland Resort Line and MTR bus route Nos. 506, K51 and K54 will be extended;
- KMB special bus route no. N64P will be operated at 0.40am and 1.10am of the following day. The services and operating hours of various bus routes in Kowloon and the New Territories (including 20 KMB routes and two Citybus routes) will be strengthened or extended respectively;
- The operating hours of seven GMB routes in Kowloon and one GMB route in the New Territories will be extended;
- Tram services will be extended to 1.15am the following day and will also be strengthened subject to passenger demand; and
- The operating hours of the Star Ferry (Central – Tsim Sha Tsui) will be extended to 1am the following day.

Central to Mid-Levels Escalator and Walkway System Services

- The operating hours of the Central to Mid-Levels Escalator and Walkway System on December 24 and 25 will be extended to 1am the following day.

For details of the special traffic and public transport arrangements, members of the public may visit the TD's website (www.td.gov.hk) or mobile application "HKeMobility". Passengers may also refer to the passenger notices displayed by the relevant public transport operators.

Members of the public are advised to make use of public transport services as far as possible to avoid traffic congestion and unnecessary delays. The TD and the Police will closely monitor the traffic situation and implement appropriate measures when necessary. The Police may adjust the traffic arrangements, subject to the prevailing crowd and traffic conditions in the areas. The public should pay attention to the latest traffic news through radio, television or "HKeMobility".

AMRO, HKMA and ADBI jointly host Financial Leadership Training Program in Hong Kong (with photo)

The following is issued on behalf of the Hong Kong Monetary Authority:

The Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA), the ASEAN+3 Macroeconomic Research Office (AMRO), and the Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI) jointly hosted the inaugural Financial Leadership Training Program in Hong Kong from December 11 to 14.

Attended by about 30 participants comprising senior representatives from central banks, ministries of finance and related government agencies of Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam, the Program served as a platform to promote regional communications and development of leadership skills and professional knowledge with a view to enhancing participants' capacity in safeguarding regional macroeconomic and financial stability.

During the Program, participants also visited the Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation and the MTR Corporation Limited to understand and exchange views on fintech and sustainable developments in Hong Kong.

Deputy Chief Executive of the HKMA Mr Darryl Chan said, "We are delighted to host the inaugural Financial Leadership Training Program in Hong Kong. This is part of our ongoing effort in strengthening our connections with and supporting the development of our fellow Asian economies. I look forward to closer collaborations with our neighbouring economies on issues of common interests."

AMRO is an international organisation that aims to contribute to the macroeconomic and financial resilience and stability in the ASEAN+3 region. ADBI is the Tokyo-based think tank of the Asian Development Bank, providing policy research, capacity building, training and outreach to assist developing countries in Asia and the Pacific.



CHP closely monitors human case of avian influenza A(H5N6) on Mainland

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health is today (December 22) closely monitoring a human case of avian influenza A(H5N6) on the Mainland, and again urged the public to maintain strict personal, food and environmental hygiene both locally and during travel.

The case involves a 33-year-old female living in Bazhong City in Sichuan Province, who had visited a live poultry market before the onset of symptoms. She developed symptoms on October 20 and was admitted for treatment on October 22. She passed away on November 14.

From 2014 to date, 88 human cases of avian influenza A(H5N6) have been reported by Mainland health authorities.

"All novel influenza A infections, including H5N6, are notifiable infectious diseases in Hong Kong," a spokesman for the CHP said.

Travellers to the Mainland or other affected areas must avoid visiting wet markets, live poultry markets or farms. They should be alert to the presence of backyard poultry when visiting relatives and friends. They should also avoid purchasing live or freshly slaughtered poultry, and avoid touching poultry/birds or their droppings. They should strictly observe personal and hand hygiene when visiting any place with live poultry.

Travellers returning from affected areas should consult a doctor promptly if symptoms develop, and inform the doctor of their travel history for prompt diagnosis and treatment of potential diseases. It is essential to tell the doctor if they have seen any live poultry during travel, which may imply possible exposure to contaminated environments. This will enable the doctor to assess the possibility of avian influenza and arrange necessary investigations and appropriate treatment in a timely manner.

While local surveillance, prevention and control measures are in place, the CHP will remain vigilant and work closely with the World Health Organization and relevant health authorities to monitor the latest developments.

The public should maintain strict personal, hand, food and environmental hygiene and take heed of the advice below when handling poultry:

- Avoid touching poultry, birds, animals or their droppings;
- When buying live chickens, do not touch them and their droppings. Do not blow at their bottoms. Wash eggs with detergent if soiled with faecal matter and cook and consume the eggs immediately. Always wash hands

thoroughly with soap and water after handling chickens and eggs;

- Eggs should be cooked well until the white and yolk become firm. Do not eat raw eggs or dip cooked food into any sauce with raw eggs. Poultry should be cooked thoroughly. If there is pinkish juice running from the cooked poultry or the middle part of its bone is still red, the poultry should be cooked again until fully done;
- Wash hands frequently, especially before touching the mouth, nose or eyes, before handling food or eating, and after going to the toilet, touching public installations or equipment such as escalator handrails, elevator control panels or door knobs, or when hands are dirtied by respiratory secretions after coughing or sneezing; and
- Wear a mask if fever or respiratory symptoms develop, when going to a hospital or clinic, or while taking care of patients with fever or respiratory symptoms.

â€‹The public may visit the CHP's pages for more information: the [avian influenza](#) page, the weekly [Avian Influenza Report](#), [global statistics and affected areas](#) of avian influenza, the [Facebook Page](#) and the [YouTube Channel](#).