

# Update on investigation of suspected Mycobacterium abscessus infection cluster

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health (DH) today (November 13) provided an update on the investigation of the suspected Mycobacterium abscessus infection cluster. With the addition of one case, the suspected Mycobacterium abscessus infection cluster currently involves a total of 19 females.

The additional case, which was recorded through contact tracing of the CHP, involved a 22-year-old female. She had patronised Gals Glam Beauty and received injection to stimulate collagen production in September at a premises at 6/F, Hop Hing Industrial Building, 702-704 Castle Peak Road, Lai Chi Kok, and developed relevant symptoms after injection. Her clinical sample grew Mycobacterium abscessus and she is in stable condition.

The CHP appeals that persons who have patronised the premises [announced on November 7](#), or have arranged and received relevant injections via relevant Instagram social media accounts after which they presented with relevant symptoms, should seek medical attention and call the hotline immediately. Officers of the CHP will assess their condition and arrange for follow-ups as appropriate. The CHP has set up for the related cases an enquiry hotline (2125 2372) which will continue to operate from Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays) from 9am to 5.30pm to receive enquiries.

Based on information obtained in a preliminary investigation, the CHP cannot rule out the possibility of illegal medical practice. Investigations are ongoing.

The DH reminded members of the public that injection procedures should only be performed by a locally registered doctor. Customers should look for his or her full name against the [list of registered doctors](#) of the Medical Council of Hong Kong as well as his or her professional qualifications and relevant experience. The DH also urged the public to observe the health advice below before receiving injections:

- Understand the procedure, potential risks and complications before receiving injections. Consult a doctor for an informed decision;
- Do not receive an injection in the case of a history of allergy to the injection, or infection or inflammation on the injection site;
- Request the full name of the doctor in writing if referred by a beauty service provider for the procedure, as well as the professional qualifications and relevant experience; and
- If symptoms develop, such as fever or feeling unwell, seek medical attention immediately.

â€‹The public may visit the DH's webpage on the [differentiation between medical procedures and beauty services](#) for more information.

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## CHP investigates case of mad honey poisoning

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health is today (November 13) investigating a case of mad honey poisoning, and reminded the public to buy honey from a reliable source or apiary.

The 65-year-old female patient developed vomiting, confusion, hypotension and bradycardia around one hour after consuming honey yesterday (November 12). She was taken to the Accident and Emergency Department of Queen Elizabeth Hospital on the same day and was admitted for treatment. The patient is in stable condition and is still hospitalised. Her clinical diagnosis was mad honey poisoning.

Initial enquiries revealed that the patient consumed home-made honey brought to Hong Kong by a friend from India. The poisoning might have been caused by grayanotoxin. Investigations are ongoing.

"Mad honey poisoning is caused by ingestion of honey containing grayanotoxins derived from plants belonging to the Ericaceae family, including rhododendrons. Grayanotoxins are neurotoxins which can affect nerves and muscles. Symptoms of poisoning include nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea, dizziness, weakness, excessive perspiration, hypersalivation and paraesthesia shortly after ingestion. In severe cases, hypotension, bradycardia or shock may occur," a spokesman for the CHP explained.

Members of the public are reminded to take heed of the following preventive advice:

- Buy honey from a reliable source or apiary;
  - Discard honey with a bitter or astringent taste – grayanotoxin-containing honey may cause a burning sensation in the throat; and
  - Pay special attention to honey from India, Nepal and the Black Sea region of Türkiye as there have been grayanotoxin poisoning cases connected with honey from these areas.
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# LegCo to consider Regional Flag and Regional Emblem (Amendment) Bill 2023

The following is issued on behalf of the Legislative Council Secretariat:

The Legislative Council (LegCo) will hold a meeting on Wednesday (November 15) at 11 am in the Chamber of the LegCo Complex. During the meeting, the Second Reading debate on the Regional Flag and Regional Emblem (Amendment) Bill 2023 will resume. If the Bill is supported by Members and receives its Second Reading, it will stand committed to the committee of the whole Council. After the committee of the whole Council has completed consideration of the Bill and its report is adopted by the Council, the Bill will be set down for the Third Reading.

The Second Reading debate on the Stamp Duty (Amendment) (Stock Transfers) Bill 2023 will also resume. If the Bill is supported by Members and receives its Second Reading, it will stand committed to the committee of the whole Council. After the committee of the whole Council has completed consideration of the Bill and its report is adopted by the Council, the Bill will be set down for the Third Reading.

On Members' motions, Mr Yiu Pak-leung will move a motion on promoting the in-depth integration of culture, sports and tourism to revitalize the tourism industry. The motion is set out in Appendix 1. Dr Johnny Ng, Mr Luk Chung-hung, Mr Steven Ho, Mr Kenneth Fok, Dr Hoey Simon Lee and Mr Yim Kong will move amendments to Mr Yiu Pak-leung's motion.

Mr Kingsley Wong will move a motion on taking the lead by the Government to review the outsourcing system. The motion is set out in Appendix 2. Dr Ngan Man-yu and Mr Lam San-keung will move amendments to Mr Kingsley Wong's motion.

On other Members' motions, Mr Steven Ho and Mr Chan Han-pan will move three separate proposed resolutions under section 34(4) of the Interpretation and General Clauses Ordinance to extend the period for amending subsidiary legislations. The proposed resolutions are set out in Appendices 3 to 5 respectively.

Members will also ask the Government 22 questions on various policy areas, six of which require oral replies.

The agenda of the above meeting can be obtained via the LegCo Website ([www.legco.gov.hk](http://www.legco.gov.hk)). Members of the public can watch or listen to the meeting via the "Webcast" system on the LegCo Website. To observe the proceedings of the meeting at the LegCo Complex, members of the public may call 3919 3399 during office hours to reserve seats.

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## Appointments of Hong Kong, China's representatives to ABAC announced

The Government today (November 13) announced that the Chief Executive (CE) has appointed Ms Nisa Leung as Hong Kong, China (HKC)'s representative and Mr Duncan Chiu as alternate representative to the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Business Advisory Council (ABAC) for a term commencing today until December 31, 2025.

Ms Leung, HKC's incumbent alternate representative to the ABAC, will replace Mr Nicholas Ho, who has resigned as HKC's representative following his appointment as the Commissioner for Belt and Road, while Mr Chiu will assume the role of HKC's alternate representative.

At the same time, the CE has reappointed Ms Marjorie Yang as HKC's representative to the ABAC for a term of two years commencing January 1, 2024.

"I am very grateful to Ms Yang and Ms Leung for continuing to serve on the ABAC, and to Mr Chiu for agreeing to represent HKC in the ABAC. I have no doubt that their extensive experience in the business sector and wise counsel will inject further impetus into the work of the ABAC. I would also like to express my deep appreciation for Mr Ho's valuable contribution since his first appointment in 2017," the Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development, Mr Algernon Yau, said.

Ms Yang is the Chairman of Esquel Group, and Ms Leung is the Managing Partner of Qiming Venture Partners. Mr Chiu is the Chairman of Lai Yuen Company Limited.

The ABAC was established in 1996 as a permanent business advisory body to provide advice to APEC on business sector priorities. HKC has appointed three representatives and two alternate representatives to the ABAC. Currently, the Chief Executive Officer (Hong Kong) and Cluster Chief Executive Officer (Hong Kong, Taiwan & Macau) of Standard Chartered Bank (Hong Kong) Limited, Ms Mary Huen, is another HKC's representative. The Group Executive Chairman of Li & Fung, Mr Spencer Fung, is another HKC's alternate representative.

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## Import of poultry meat and products from areas in US suspended

The Centre for Food Safety (CFS) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department announced today (November 13) that in view of a notification from the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) about outbreaks of highly pathogenic H5N1 avian influenza in Stearns County and Wright County of the State of Minnesota; Hamilton County of the State of Iowa; Benton County of the State of Missouri; Marshall County of the State of Alabama; and Madison County of the State of Arkansas in the United States (US), the CFS has instructed the trade to suspend the import of poultry meat and products (including poultry eggs) from the above-mentioned areas with immediate effect to protect public health in Hong Kong.

A CFS spokesman said that according to the Census and Statistics Department, Hong Kong imported about 21 470 tonnes of chilled and frozen poultry meat and about 57.11 million poultry eggs from the US in the first nine months of this year.

â€œThe CFS has contacted the American authority over the issue and will closely monitor information issued by the WOAH and the relevant authorities on the avian influenza outbreaks. Appropriate action will be taken in response to the development of the situation," the spokesman said.