

Update on cluster of Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus cases in Tuen Mun Hospital

The following is issued on behalf of the Hospital Authority:

Regarding an earlier announcement on a cluster of Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) carriers in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, the spokesperson for Tuen Mun Hospital (TMH) made the following updates today (May 13):

In accordance with the prevailing infection control guidelines, the hospital has performed enhanced surveillance, and one more patient, an 82-day-old baby boy, was confirmed as an MRSA carrier without any symptoms of infection. The patient has been discharged earlier.

The hospital has performed enhanced medical surveillance and screening of the patients in the ward concerned. The following infection control measures have been stepped up according to established guidelines:

1. Thorough cleaning and disinfection of the ward concerned, including the environment, incubators, equipment and instruments;
2. Enhanced medical surveillance of the patients and environmental screening procedures in the ward concerned; and
3. Applied stringent contact precautions and enhanced hand hygiene of staff. Family members are reminded that infection control measures must be implemented before visiting their babies.

The case has been reported to the Hospital Authority Head Office and the Centre for Health Protection for follow-up.

Effective Exchange Rate Index

The effective exchange rate index for the Hong Kong dollar on Monday, May 13, 2024 is 106.1 (up 0.1 against last Saturday's index).

The effective exchange rate index for the Hong Kong dollar on Saturday, May 11, 2024 was 106 (same as last Friday's index).

Inspection of aquatic products imported from Japan

In response to the Japanese Government's plan to discharge nuclear-contaminated water at the Fukushima Nuclear Power Station, the Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene issued a Food Safety Order which prohibits all aquatic products, sea salt and seaweeds originating from the 10 metropolis/prefectures, namely Tokyo, Fukushima, Ibaraki, Miyagi, Chiba, Gunma, Tochigi, Niigata, Nagano and Saitama, from being imported into and supplied in Hong Kong.

For other Japanese aquatic products, sea salt and seaweeds that are not prohibited from being imported into Hong Kong, the Centre for Food Safety (CFS) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department will conduct comprehensive radiological tests to verify that the radiation levels of these products do not exceed the guideline levels before they are allowed to be supplied in the market.

As the discharge of nuclear-contaminated water is unprecedented and will continue for 30 years or more, the Government will closely monitor and step up the testing arrangements. Should anomalies be detected, the Government does not preclude further tightening the scope of the import ban.

From noon on May 10 to noon today (May 13), the CFS conducted tests on the radiological levels of 426 food samples imported from Japan, which were of the "aquatic and related products, seaweeds and sea salt" category, in the past three days (including last Saturday and Sunday). No sample was found to have exceeded the safety limit. Details can be found on the CFS's thematic website titled "Control Measures on Foods Imported from Japan" (www.cfs.gov.hk/english/programme/programme_rafs/programme_rafs_fc_01_30_Nuclear_Event_and_Food_Safety.html).

In parallel, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has also tested 150 samples of local catch for radiological levels. All the samples passed the tests. Details can be found on the AFCD's website (www.afcd.gov.hk/english/fisheries/Radiological_testing/Radiological_Test.html).

The Hong Kong Observatory (HKO) has also enhanced the environmental monitoring of the local waters. No anomaly has been detected so far. For details, please refer to the HKO's website (www.hko.gov.hk/en/radiation/monitoring/seawater.html).

From August 24 to noon today, the CFS and the AFCD have conducted tests on the radiological levels of 50 631 samples of food imported from Japan (including 32 855 samples of aquatic and related products, seaweeds and sea

salt) and 13 036 samples of local catch respectively. All the samples passed the tests.

Red flag hoisted at Stanley Main 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 (May 13) that due to big waves, the red flag has been hoisted at Stanley Main Beach in Southern District, Hong Kong Island. Beachgoers are advised not to swim at the beach.

Applications open for Music Office's music training programme Innovative Music Making: MO x e-Orch

The Music Office of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department, in collaboration with the Education University of Hong Kong, will rerun the music training programme Innovative Music Making: MO x e-Orch from October to July next year. The training programme aims to promote the integration of music and technology on school campuses. Interested primary and secondary schools are invited to join the programme.

Training targets of the Innovative Music Making: MO x e-Orch programme are Primary Four to Primary Six students and Secondary One to Secondary Three students. With the use of tablets, participants from each school will form a digital music orchestra (e-Orch), learn musical knowledge and music creation, and receive training on ensemble performance and collaborative creation. Upon completion of the training, students will join hands with the Western and Chinese instrumental ensembles of the Music Office to perform on stage at a public concert. Various awards and certificates of attendance will be presented to participating students at the public concert as encouragement.

Interested schools can download application forms from the Music

Office's website

(www.lcsd.gov.hk/en/mo/activities/schoolprogrammes/arttech.html). Completed forms must be returned to the Music Office on or before June 3 by e-mail (moarttech@lcsd.gov.hk) or by fax (3104 1352). The Music Office will acknowledge schools' applications by e-mail. For enquiries, please call 2158 6467 or 3842 7776.