

Fatal traffic accident in Tai Po

Police are investigating a fatal traffic accident happened in Tai Po this afternoon (April 27) in which a man died.

At 2.17pm, a taxi driven by a 76-year-old man was turning onto On Cheung Road from a car park in Tai Yuen Estate. The taxi reportedly went out of control and rammed into a stationary light goods vehicle and a kerb.

Sustaining head injuries, the taxi driver was sent to Prince of Wales Hospital in unconscious state and later certified dead at 3.31pm.

Investigation by the Special Investigation Team of Traffic, New Territories North is underway.

Anyone who witnessed the accident or has any information to offer is urged to contact the investigating officers on 3661 3800.

CHP investigates case of severe paediatric influenza A infection

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health is today (April 27) investigating a case of severe paediatric influenza A infection and reminded the community to heighten vigilance against influenza. The CHP appealed to members of the public to receive seasonal influenza vaccination (SIV) in a timely manner to better protect themselves during the influenza season.

The case involves a 4-year-old girl with good past health. She developed a fever and sore throat since April 25. She was taken to the St Paul's Hospital on the next day for medical attention and was admitted on the same day. She was sent to the Pamela Youde Nethersole Eastern Hospital today due to worsening of symptoms and was admitted to the paediatric intensive care unit of the hospital. Her respiratory specimen was positive for influenza A virus upon laboratory testing. The clinical diagnosis was influenza A infection complicated with encephalopathy. She is now in critical condition.

Initial enquiries by the CHP revealed that the patient had not received SIV for this season. The CHP's investigations are ongoing.

A spokesman for the CHP said, "Influenza can cause serious illnesses in high-risk individuals and even healthy persons. SIV is one of the most effective means to prevent seasonal influenza and its complications, as well

as reducing influenza-related hospitalisation and death. SIV 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 SIV early. As it takes about two weeks to develop antibodies, members of the public are advised to receive SIV early for protection against seasonal influenza. 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. It is important to receive both SIV and COVID-19 vaccination as soon as possible, in particular for children and elderly persons residing in the community or residential care homes. The public should also maintain good personal and environmental hygiene against influenza and other 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;
- For high-risk persons (e.g. persons with underlying medical conditions or persons who are immunocompromised), wear a surgical mask when visiting public places. The public should also 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, perform physical activity regularly, take adequate rest, do not smoke and avoid overstress.

The public may visit the CHP's [COVID-19 & Flu Express](#) for more information.

SFST to attend 2024 Zhongguancun Forum in Beijing

The Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury, Mr Christopher Hui, will depart for Beijing tomorrow (April 28) to attend the 2024 Zhongguancun Forum Fintech Parallel Forum (Parallel Forum) on April 29.

Organised by the Haidian District People's Government, the Xicheng District People's Government, the Asia Financial Cooperation Association, and Tsinghua University PBC School of Finance, the Parallel Forum invites guests to discuss the prospects of integrated development of digital finance and artificial intelligence under the theme "AI for Digital Finance". Mr Hui will deliver a keynote speech on how Hong Kong's financial sector addresses the opportunities and challenges brought by artificial intelligence.

2024 Zhongguancun Forum is scheduled in Beijing from April 25 to 29. Launched in 2007 and with the one and only theme of "Innovation & Development", the forum has grown into a global, comprehensive, open, and high-level international event for enhancing global innovation in science and technology.

Mr Hui will return to Hong Kong on April 30. During his absence, the Under Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury, Mr Joseph Chan, will act as the Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury.

FSD holds Big Hearts, Save Hearts Awards Ceremony cum Carnival (with photos)

The Fire Services Department (FSD) is holding the Big Hearts, Save Hearts Awards Ceremony cum Carnival for two consecutive days, starting today (April 27), at P&O PARK in Tsuen Wan to share the message with the public that lending a helping hand during emergencies saves lives. The event is funded by the Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust (HKJCCT), organised by the FSD and co-organised by eight Resuscitation Alliance members, namely the Auxiliary Medical Service, the Civil Aid Service, the Hospital Authority, the Hong Kong College of Cardiology, the Hong Kong Red Cross, the Hong Kong St John Ambulance, the Resuscitation Council of Hong Kong, and the Sudden Arrhythmia Death Syndromes (SADS) Hong Kong Foundation.

Addressing the ceremony, the Director of Fire Services, Mr Andy Yeung, said that many people lose their lives each year through sudden cardiac

arrest, but timely intervention of cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and the use of automated external defibrillators (AED) can significantly increase patients' chances of survival. In view of this, the FSD launched the AED Anywhere for Anyone (AAA) Programme in 2021, encouraging public and private organisations to install AEDs in their premises and facilities. The department has also introduced an online information platform, named Centralized AED Registry for Emergency, which provides real-time information on the location of AEDs and other relevant data for public access. Currently, nearly 3 000 AEDs are available for public use in various public places throughout Hong Kong.

Among the 282 organisations that have participated in the AAA programme, 26 were awarded the Big Heart of the Year Award and the Big Heart Outstanding Performance Award by the FSD today in recognition of their proactive promotion of AED installations.

The Assistant Director (Ambulance) of the FSD, Mr Henry Kwok, presented the Save Heart Award at the event today to commend members of the public who had rescued people during emergencies. The award ceremony featured short videos with sharing from some of the awardees, with a view to encouraging more citizens to save people's lives.

The event is an initiative under the Hong Kong Fire Services Department Disaster Management Programme, which is funded by the HKJCCT and consistent with the safe communities objective. It offers a variety of activities, including the Big Heart and Save Heart award ceremonies, emergency preparedness information sharing by Big Heart Ambassador Miss Rosita Kwok, CPR and AED hands-on activities, and the AED Instruction Design Competition Award Ceremony, etc.





Port and transportation arrangements and advice to visitors for 2024 Labour Day Golden Week of the Mainland

The Culture, Sports and Tourism Bureau (CSTB) convened inter-departmental meetings on March 26 and April 16 to co-ordinate the preparation work by various bureaux and departments, including port, traffic and transport arrangements as well as advice to visitors during the 2024 Labour Day Golden Week of the Mainland. All relevant bureaux and departments have reserved no effort in implementing preparation work in all aspects with a view to creating a good travel experience for visitors and demonstrating Hong Kong's unique city appeals, a Government spokesman said today (April 27).

Relevant port, traffic and transport arrangements as well as advice to visitors are set out below:

(1) Port arrangements

To meet the needs of inbound Mainland visitors as well as Hong Kong residents during the Golden Week, the port-related departments have established a series of measures to ensure smooth passenger and vehicular flows at various boundary control points (BCPs).

Based on current assessments, various ports will maintain normal opening hours. However, in view of the anticipated increase in the number of inbound visitors, relevant departments have minimised leave for frontline staff to facilitate more flexible deployment of manpower and operation of additional clearance counters and kiosks for easing passenger and vehicular flows. At the same time, additional security guards will be deployed to ports to assist in maintaining the order of boundary crossing travellers. In addition, the Inter-departmental Joint Command Centre, composed of relevant departments including the Customs and Excise Department (the Customs), the Hong Kong Police Force (the Police), and the Immigration Department (ImmD), etc. will be activated during the Labour Day Golden Week of the Mainland to monitor the situation at various ports in real time and take contingency actions where necessary to ensure smooth operation. The Security Bureau will activate the Emergency Monitoring and Support Centre in a timely manner to closely monitor and co-ordinate the situation at various ports and facilitate interdepartmental follow-up actions where necessary. Relevant departments will also maintain close liaison with their Mainland counterparts to step up co-ordination and communication at various ports.

The Customs will also continue to strengthen promotion and education work. Apart from stepping up promotion at various ports, the Customs has disseminated a series of information on Smart Guide to Passenger Clearance via various social media platforms with photos and texts to remind the public of the items that are prohibited and controlled into and out of Hong Kong and the relevant laws in order to assist the public in avoiding the violation of laws. In addition, the Customs has also developed the Smart Customs Interactive Response System and introduced the Virtual Customs Ambassador XiaoHui, which can handle general enquiries raised by the public in real time in relation to the Customs' work and provide information on ports through combining technologies on artificial intelligence, natural language processing, machine learning, etc, to enable visitors to access to information related to the Customs and import and export controls.

(2) Traffic and transport arrangements

To address the transport demand of cross-boundary travellers during the Golden Week and facilitate them to plan their itineraries ahead, the Transport Department (TD) has liaised with the relevant Mainland authorities and Hong Kong public transport operators with a view to making preparations to enhance public transport services and implement traffic measures at various BCPs/ports as and when necessary during the Golden Week. In respect of public transport services, the TD has issued 40 per cent more additional ad-hoc quotas than those of normal days, in order to enable cross-boundary coach (CBC) operators to increase service frequency during the Golden Week. The frequency of Lok Ma Chau – Huanggang cross-boundary shuttle bus (Yellow Bus), Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge (HZMB) shuttle bus (Gold Bus) and relevant franchised bus services will also be enhanced. In addition, the MTR will also strengthen services during the Golden Week to facilitate the travelling of passengers. As for the traffic arrangement for ports, the TD has coordinated with the Police and the Highways Department such that the Police will make appropriate traffic arrangements at Lok Ma Chau/Huanggang

Port and Shenzhen Bay Port when necessary to separate various types of vehicles heading for the ports so as to provide a dedicated passage for public transport vehicles. The TD will also closely monitor the traffic condition of the HZMB Hong Kong Port and nearby roads, and maintain close liaison with relevant Mainland departments so as to adopt corresponding traffic measures as and when necessary.

In addition, the TD also reminded members of the public and visitors that there will be large-scale events at the Central Harbourfront Event Space during and around the Golden Week (i.e. April 30, May 1, 3, 4, 5, 7 and 8). To facilitate dispersal of crowds leaving the venue, the following special transport arrangements will be implemented:

1. for rail service, to facilitate the dispersal of members of the public and visitors travelling to the Mainland after the events, the last train of the MTR East Rail Line heading for Lo Wu will depart from Admiralty Station at 11.32pm on the above dates. Arrangements will also be made at the Lo Wu Control Point to handle the passenger clearance service accordingly;

2. for franchised bus service, after the end of events, franchised bus companies will operate the following six special bus routes near the event venue:

Route No.	Destination	Boarding Point
To BCPs		
1) CTB Route No. 976R*	Lok Ma Chau (San Tin) Public Transport Interchange (PTI)	1. Man Kwong Street near Central Ferry Pier No. 6 2. Lung Wo Road, opposite to Central Barracks
2) CTB Route No. A11R*	Airport (via HZMB Hong Kong Port)	opposite to Central Barracks
To other districts		
3) CTB Route No. 18R	Heng Fa Chuen	1. Man Kwong Street near Central Ferry Pier No. 8 2. Lung Wo Road, opposite to Central Barracks
4) KMB Route No. 160R	Hung Shui Kiu (via Tuen Mun)	1. Central Ferry Piers Bus Terminus 2. Lung Wo Road, opposite to Central Barracks
5) KMB Route No. 168R	Yuen Long (West)	
6) KMB Route No. 178R	Luen Wo Hui, Fanling (via Sheung Shui)	

* Cross-boundary travellers can take Route No. 976R to Lok Ma Chau (San Tin)

PTI and interchange Yellow Bus to Huanggang Port; or take Route No. A11R to HZMB Hong Kong Port and interchange Gold Bus to Macao and Zhuhai.

3. for CBC service, the short-haul CBC service plying between Wan Chai and Huanggang Port will add a temporary pick-up point at Connaught Road Central (near World Wide House) on the above dates to facilitate dispersal of cross-boundary travellers. Yellow Bus will also enhance service subject to passenger demand. If cross-boundary travellers wish to take CBC, apart from purchasing tickets at the CBC terminus, they may also reserve CBC tickets through the website of relevant CBC operators or mobile applications such as WeChat and Alipay in advance.

For details of public transport arrangements, please refer to the passenger notices issued by respective public transport operators. The TD reminded members of the public and travellers to pay attention to the details of the public transport services concerned and the special traffic arrangement during the Golden Week. They may contact the relevant public transport operators for assistance, if needed. We encourage visitors to plan their itineraries ahead, including making their journeys during non-peak hours and considering an overnight stay in Hong Kong to enjoy a more diversified travel experience in Hong Kong. The TD and public transport operators will closely monitor the passenger demand during the Golden Week and make service adjustments as and when necessary. The TD's Emergency Transport Co-ordination Centre will operate 24 hours to monitor the traffic conditions of different districts, especially the ports and major stations, implement response measures in due course and disseminate the latest traffic information through various channels, including radio broadcast, the TD's mobile application "HKeMobility" and the TD's website.

(3) District management arrangements

Various District Offices will closely monitor the flow of visitors within their corresponding districts during the Golden Week and strengthen management of the relevant spots having regard to the actual circumstances. Major tourist attractions will also put in place crowd control measures. The Travel Industry Authority (TIA) has been reminding travel agents receiving relevant Mainland inbound tour groups to stagger arrival times as far as possible and urge travel agents, shops and restaurants, etc., receiving Mainland inbound tour groups to implement appropriate measures for managing the order of visitors and coaches. The TIA will also deploy additional manpower during the Golden Week to conduct inspection in districts where relatively more registered shops for inbound tour groups are located, and offer assistance to visitors and tourist guides.

(4) Advice to visitors

The CSTB has already provided advice to visitors, through the tourism authorities in Guangdong Province, to the travel trade in Guangdong and inbound group tour visitors. In order to further enable visitors coming from different regions of the Mainland to plan their itineraries and improve travel experience, the Government provides the following reminders:

(a) Large-scale events

A considerable number of large-scale events will be held during the Golden Week, including the marine pyrotechnic display held by the Hong Kong Tourism Board on May 1 over Victoria Harbour near Tsim Sha Tsui Promenade (near Tsim Sha Tsui East), large-scale concerts held at the Central Harbourfront Event Space (i.e. April 30, May 1, 3, 4, 5, 7 and 8) and the Yau Tsim Mong Shopping Festival initiated by the Yau Tsim Mong District Office and District Council, etc. with a view to attracting more overnight visitors to stay in Hong Kong to enjoy the Golden Week long holidays. The Government reminds visitors to plan their itineraries as early as possible and closely monitor the contingency arrangements to be implemented by the event organisers due to weather conditions.

Apart from promoting shopping, dining, attractions and hotel offers, the Hong Kong Tourism Board's "Webpage for Golden Week offers and activities" launched (www.discoverhongkong.com/hk-eng/what-s-new/golden-week.html) also provides information on traffic arrangements, opening hours of major attraction, etc. to facilitate the perusal of visitors and the public.

(b) Immigration diversion

To avoid long waiting time for visitors to cross the boundary at ports, the ImmD urges all visitors travelling to and from the Mainland on land to plan their itineraries in advance, avoid crossing the boundary during busy periods and pay attention to radio and TV broadcasts on traffic conditions at BCPs. Visitors can browse the website of the ImmD (www.immd.gov.hk) to check the busy periods of various BCP.

In addition, residents and visitors can check the estimated queuing conditions for crossing the boundary at various land BCPs anytime and anywhere via the Immigration Mobile Application to plan their itineraries and reduce queuing time.

(c) Hotel accommodation

The Government reminds visitors to confirm accommodation arrangements before arriving Hong Kong. At the same time, the Government urges travel agencies organising tour groups to ensure that visitors are informed of their relevant accommodation arrangements in Hong Kong, including the type and specifications of accommodation, before arrival.

Visitors shall also pay attention to whether the guesthouses hold valid licenses. To access information about licensed hotels and guesthouses in Hong Kong, visitors can browse the website of the Home Affairs Department (www.hadla.gov.hk/en/licensing_matters/hotels/search.php).

(d) Honest and quality tourism

The Government and the travel trade in Hong Kong will continue to implement various measures to promote honest tourism and step up law enforcement to safeguard the rights and interests of Mainland visitors. The Government encourages Mainland residents to carefully select tourism products

and recommends visitors to visit the WeChat official account for Mainland consumers established by the Consumer Council before departure (www.consumer.org.hk/tc/wechat).

If visitors encounter suspected unfair trade practices during their stay in Hong Kong, they should refuse to engage in any transaction and call the Customs' 24-hour hotline at +852 2545 6182 to report the incident. The Customs will dispatch the Quick Response Team to promptly handle reports involving visitors staying in Hong Kong in the short-term.

(e) Emergency contacts

â€œIn case of emergency, Mainland inbound tour group visitors, tour escorts accompanying the tour groups and local tourist guides may seek assistance from the TIA by calling its service hotline +852 3698 5900. For enquiries or complaints, visitors may call the Hong Kong Tourism Board's hotline +852 2508 1234 or the Consumer Council's hotline +852 2929 2222.