## <u>Transport Department to arrange free</u> <u>health check services for taxi and</u> <u>public light bus drivers from July 15</u>

The Transport Department (TD) today (July 8) appealed to the staff of public transport service operators to participate in the COVID-19 Vaccination Programme as soon as possible to protect themselves, their families and the community as a whole. To encourage members of the public transport trades to get vaccinated, following the health check included in the Safe Driving and Health Campaign this year, the TD will arrange one-off health check services specifically for taxi and public light bus (PLB) drivers from July 15 to August 14. The purpose of the health check is to help the drivers concerned understand their health conditions and decide whether they are suitable for vaccination. The health check is voluntary and free of charge.

The items covered in the free health check, as well as the locations, opening dates, opening hours and contact numbers of the 10 designated health check centres, are detailed in the Annex.

From July 12, taxi and PLB drivers may register by sending messages via WhatsApp or WeChat at 9465 1172, and provide their names, Hong Kong identity card numbers, driver identity plate numbers and phone numbers for registration. Upon successful registration, drivers will receive a registration number. They can call or send WhatsApp messages to the desired health check centre for booking two working days after receiving the registration numbers. A limited quota is available for the free health check services on a first-come, first-served basis.

The TD appeals to members of the taxi and PLB trades to participate in the health check and get vaccinated as soon as possible to ensure personal and public health and minimise risks of the spread of virus in the community.

For details of the COVID-19 Vaccination Programme, please visit the designated website (<u>www.covidvaccine.gov.hk</u>).