

## Hong Kong e-News Bulletin

April 22, 2020



### SPECIAL NOTICE

In response to the local government's appeal for concerted efforts to contain the spread of COVID-19, the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office (Toronto) has been closed temporarily until further notice. Users may continue to reach us via the following channels:

#### Toronto

Phone: (416) 924-5544 or

Email: [info@hketotoronto.gov.hk](mailto:info@hketotoronto.gov.hk)

#### Vancouver

Phone: (604) 331-1300 or

Email: [info\\_vancouver@hketotoronto.gov.hk](mailto:info_vancouver@hketotoronto.gov.hk)

For urgent assistance outside office hours, Hong Kong residents in Canada may call the 24-hour hotline of the Assistance to Hong Kong Residents Unit of the Immigration Department in Hong Kong at +852 1868. In the event that Hong Kong residents who need assistance are not able to call the hotline due to the service settings of their telecommunication services operators or other reasons, they may try adding "0000" after entering "1868". Hong Kong residents in Canada in need of consular assistance may contact the Chinese Embassy or Consulate Offices in your province (<http://ca.china-embassy.org/eng/zlgli/>).

### HONG KONG NEWS

#### **Government enhances testing arrangements for asymptomatic inbound travellers**

The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government announced on April 20 that starting from April 22, all asymptomatic inbound travellers arriving at the Hong Kong International Airport (HKIA) will be mandated to wait for test results at a designated location after collecting their deep throat saliva samples for conducting testing for COVID-19 at the Department of Health (DH)'s Temporary Specimen Collection Centre (TSCC) at AsiaWorld-Expo under the Prevention and Control of Disease Ordinance (Cap. 599).

Depending on the arrival time of flights and taking into consideration factors including infection control and crowd control as well as testing time, the DH will arrange those asymptomatic inbound travellers who need to wait for test results overnight to be temporarily accommodated in the DH Holding Centre for Test Result (HCTR) set up in the Regal Oriental Hotel.

The DH will also issue quarantine orders to all passengers arriving at the HKIA in accordance with the Compulsory Quarantine of Certain Persons Arriving at Hong Kong Regulation (Cap. 599C) and the Compulsory Quarantine of Persons Arriving at Hong Kong from Foreign Places Regulation (Cap. 599E). The relevant government department will also arrange electronic wristbands for them.

According to quarantine orders, those staying at the DH HCTR shall not leave their hotel rooms nor move around in the hotel. Leaving designated rooms will be regarded as a breach of the quarantine order and constitutes a criminal offence. Offenders are subject to a maximum imprisonment for six months and fine of HK\$25,000.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202004/20/P2020042000699.htm>

### **Government announces measures involving over HK\$130 billion to support enterprises, employees and the public**

In response to the challenges arising from the COVID-19 virus, the Chief Executive of the HKSAR, Mrs Carrie Lam, on April 8 announced a series of measures involving over HK\$130 billion to help businesses stay afloat, keep workers in employment, relieve financial burdens of individuals and businesses and assist the economy to recover once the epidemic is contained.

The measures, which Mrs Lam described as unprecedented, include introducing an HK\$80 billion Employment Support Scheme under which wage subsidies will be provided to eligible employers, and providing 16 types of support for specific sectors totalling HK\$21 billion. In addition, the HKSAR Government will enhance the SME Financing Guarantee Scheme, help the MTR Corporation to provide a 20 per cent fare discount, temporarily relax the monthly threshold of the Public Transport Fare Subsidy Scheme, grant interest-free deferral of loan repayments to all student loan repayees, allow deferrals of tax payments, and more, benefiting many businesses and people.

The total cost of the package is HK\$137.5 billion. Together with the HK\$30 billion under the first round of the Anti-epidemic Fund and the HK\$120 billion in Budget measures, the total fiscal implication is HK\$287.5 billion, representing 10 per cent of Gross Domestic Product.

Click the following links for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202004/08/P2020040800810.htm>

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202004/18/P2020041800486.htm>

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The HKSAR Government has produced an e-booklet highlighting the package of economic relief measures to support individuals and businesses affected by COVID-19. Please visit the link below for details:

[https://www.dropbox.com/s/xfv6gd2mobukdsl/e-Booklet %20Fight%20the%20Virus%20Together%20-%20Support%20Hong%20Kong%20Together%20%28EN%29.pdf?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/s/xfv6gd2mobukdsl/e-Booklet_%20Fight%20the%20Virus%20Together%20-%20Support%20Hong%20Kong%20Together%20%28EN%29.pdf?dl=0)

In addition, the Information Services Department has updated the fact sheet about the business support measures amid economic challenges. Please click the link below for further information:

[https://www.dropbox.com/s/3aci92465z23u48/Fact%20sheet\\_Business%20support%20measures\\_April%202020\\_E.pdf?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/s/3aci92465z23u48/Fact%20sheet_Business%20support%20measures_April%202020_E.pdf?dl=0)

### **Updates on Novel Coronavirus Infection in Hong Kong**

The HKSAR Government has implemented a comprehensive and co-ordinated approach to contain the spread of the novel coronavirus and protect the health of the community while maintaining Hong Kong's position as an international city and aviation hub.

An information page "Latest Situation of Novel Coronavirus Infection in Hong Kong" has been added to the official website of HKETO. Information in the page includes the latest local situation, reported cases, health tips, travel advice etc.

You are invited to browse the page by clicking the banner on top of HKETO website or the following link:

<https://www.coronavirus.gov.hk/eng/index.html>

### **Government approves five more production lines under Local Mask Production Subsidy Scheme**

The Commerce and Economic Development Bureau of the HKSAR Government announced on April 17 that it has approved five more applications under the Local Mask Production Subsidy Scheme.

The target commencement date as estimated by an applicant in its application is one of the approval criteria. If an approved applicant cannot supply certified masks to the HKSAR Government by the target commencement date, it may apply for extension of not more than one month. Any extension beyond one month without exceptional reasons and full justifications would result in revocation of the subsidy.

The HKSAR Government launched the Scheme under the Anti-epidemic Fund to facilitate local production of masks as soon as possible to help address the imminent shortage as well as to build up stock.

The Scheme will provide subsidies to a maximum of 20 local production lines. Thus far, 13 production lines have been approved under the Scheme, and there is a subsidy quota of seven production lines remaining. The Hong Kong Productivity Council has confirmed that there remain 26 applications (involving 33 production lines) which meet all the eligibility criteria of the Scheme, and the HKSAR Government will process them as soon as possible.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202004/17/P2020041700283.htm>

### **Applications for Common Recruitment Examination and Basic Law Test open**

There will be over 10 000 civil service job openings for replacing retirees and filling some 6 000 new posts to be created in the 2020-21 Estimates, which include civil service posts at the degree or professional level. A spokesman for the Civil Service Bureau (CSB) of the HKSAR Government on April 15 said that prospective applicants for civil service posts at the degree or professional level can apply from April 16 to sit the Common Recruitment Examination and Basic Law Test (CRE and BLT) in Hong Kong, tentatively scheduled to be held on June 6 and 13, or another date within June if necessary.

In the light of the evolving situation regarding COVID-19, the CSB will make new arrangements for the examination if the situation warrants and announce them on the CSB webpage. The spokesman reminded persons who wish to take the coming CRE and BLT to pay attention to the latest announcements.

Valid CRE results are required of applicants for civil service posts at the degree or professional level, unless applicants possess equivalent results in the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination or other specified public examinations. Persons interested in applying for civil service posts at the degree or professional level in the near future may wish to consider sitting the coming examination to be eligible to apply for these posts, which may become available before another CRE is held.

In addition, applicants for civil service posts will be assessed on their Basic Law knowledge. The result of the BLT will be one of the considerations to assess the suitability of a candidate.

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Persons interested in taking the examination may apply through the online application system on the CSB webpage at [www.csb.gov.hk/eng/cre.html](http://www.csb.gov.hk/eng/cre.html); or by using the CRE and BLT application form (CSB31 (3/2020)), which can be downloaded from the CSB webpage or obtained from any Home Affairs Enquiry Centre of the Home Affairs Department. Applications must be made before 5pm on April 29 (Hong Kong time).

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202004/15/P2020041500212.htm>

### **Recruitment of qualified doctors outside Hong Kong**

DH in Hong Kong is recruiting qualified doctors outside Hong Kong for the positions of Non-civil Service Contract Doctor (without Full Registration) and Contract Doctor (without Full Registration) (Child Assessment). Applications for the above two posts are accepted all year round. Eligibility requirements are set out in the attached recruitment notices of the Department of Health.

Enquiries can be made to the Department of Health at [appts\\_registry1@dh.gov.hk](mailto:appts_registry1@dh.gov.hk) and online application can be made through the Civil Service Bureau's website at <http://www.csb.gov.hk>. Job numbers are 40221 (Contract Doctor (without Full Registration)) and 40248 (Contract Doctor (without Full Registration) (Child Assessment)).

[Click here to read the details of Contract Doctor \(without full registration\)](#)

[Click here to read the details of Contract Doctor \(without full registration \(Child Assessment\)\)](#)

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