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### **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) (HKETO) is closed temporarily. You may 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)

Currently, except for Hong Kong residents, all travellers arriving Hong Kong by flights from overseas countries/territories will be denied entry. The same restriction also applies to non-Hong Kong residents travelling to Hong Kong from the Mainland of China, Macao and Taiwan who have been to any overseas countries/territories in the past 14 days. These temporary restrictions will remain in force until further notice. Please refer to the webpage <https://www.coronavirus.gov.hk/eng/inbound-travel.html> for details.

In addition, travellers from Canada are required to present test report, in English or Chinese, showing a negative COVID-19 nucleic acid test administered within 72 hours of the scheduled time of departure, before boarding the flight. They are required to present documentary proof in English to show that the laboratory or healthcare institution is recognized/ approved/ ISO15189 accredited. The same requirements apply to a Hong Kong resident who has stayed in Canada during the 21 days before boarding the flight to Hong Kong. Please refer to the webpage <https://www.coronavirus.gov.hk/eng/high-risk-places.html> for details.

The "COVID-19 Thematic Website" of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government has been added to the official website of HKETO. 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>

For the latest entry restrictions and quarantine requirements in Hong Kong, please refer to the webpage <https://www.coronavirus.gov.hk/eng/inbound-travel.html> for details.

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## **UPCOMING ACTIVITIES**

### **ACCE Awards Gala 2021**

The Association of Canadian Chinese Entrepreneurs (ACCE) will host on April 24 at 6:45 pm (EDT) the Chinese Canadian Entrepreneur Virtual Awards Gala. HKETO will present the Best Asia Pacific Business Award at the gala. This award recognises entrepreneurs who successfully used Hong Kong as the platform to expand its business to the Asia Pacific region. HKETO has been sponsoring this award since its inception in 2010. For more details of the gala, please visit: <https://www.acce.ca/new/2020-21-acce-awards-0424-en/>

### **Scarborough Health Network Foundation Radiothon**

In collaboration with Sing Tao A1 Chinese Radio, the Scarborough Health Network (SHN) Foundation Radiothon will be aired live at AM 1540 on April 22 from 7 am to 6 pm. The event aims to raise funds to support the purchase of medical equipment for its hospital facilities and introduce SHN's services to the Chinese community. Director of the HKETO, Ms Emily Mo, will attend a feature interview to show support and talk about the efforts of the HKSAR government in fighting the pandemic in Hong Kong. For details, please visit: <https://shnfoundation.akaraisin.com/ui/ChineseRadiothon2021/home>

### **Residential Real Estate webinar**

Hong Kong-Canada Business Association (Toronto Section) will host on April 22 at 11 am a webinar to discuss the current situation and trend of the residential real estate market in Hong Kong and Canada. For details and registration, please visit: [https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_be1umOcJSK2B7LbEatxKHQ](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_be1umOcJSK2B7LbEatxKHQ)

### **StartmeupHK North America Salon**

Invest Hong Kong will organise a series of half day virtual StartmeupHK Salon events to target local startup communities. If you are interested in learning from leading Hong Kong and global startups, welcome to join the free virtual North America Salon on May 5 from 1pm to 2:45pm (EDT) for in-depth discussions on challenges and opportunities facing startups in a post-COVID economy. The StartmeupHK Salon panellists will bring you the latest industry developments and showcase how they have achieved entrepreneurial success. For details and registration, please visit: <https://www.startmeup.hk/salons/>

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## **HONG KONG NEWS**

### **Specifications under Prevention and Control of Disease (Regulation of Cross-boundary Conveyances and Travellers) Regulation gazetted**

In view of the severe global pandemic situation of COVID-19, and to guard against the importation of new virus variants, the HKSAR Government announced on April 13 that it had gazetted the specifications under the Prevention and Control of Disease (Regulation of Cross-boundary Conveyances and Travellers) Regulation (Cap. 599H) to include Egypt as one of high-risk Group B specified places, effective from April 20, to more effectively combat the epidemic.

All persons arriving at Hong Kong (either via the airport or land boundary control points) who have stayed in Group B specified places, including Canada, on the day of arrival in Hong Kong or during the 21 days before that day have to undergo compulsory quarantine for 21 days in designated quarantine hotels. Persons arriving at Hong Kong who have stayed in Group B specified places on the day they board for Hong Kong or during the 21 days before that day are required to present prior to boarding proof of a negative result of a nucleic acid test for COVID-19 conducted within 72 hours before the scheduled time of departure of the aircraft, and confirmation of a room reservation in a designated quarantine hotel in Hong Kong for not less than 21 nights starting on the day of the arrival of the relevant traveller in Hong Kong. Details on the grouping of specified places and their respective boarding and compulsory quarantine requirements can be found at the webpage: [www.coronavirus.gov.hk/eng/high-risk-places.html](http://www.coronavirus.gov.hk/eng/high-risk-places.html).

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202104/13/P2021041300666.htm>

The HKSAR Government also announced on April 18 the invocation of the place-specific flight suspension mechanism for India, Pakistan, and the Philippines. From 00:00 on April 20, all passenger flights from these places are prohibited from landing in Hong Kong for 14 days. These places will also at the same time be specified as extremely high-risk Group A specified places under the Prevention and Control of Disease (Regulation of Cross-boundary Conveyances and Travellers) Regulation (Cap. 599H), so as to restrict persons who have stayed in these places from boarding for Hong Kong.

Under the place-specific flight suspension mechanism, if a total of five or more passengers among all flights from the same place, regardless of airline, were confirmed by arrival tests for COVID-19 with the N501Y mutant strain within a seven-day period, the Government would invoke Cap. 599H to prohibit all passenger flights from that place from landing in Hong Kong for 14 days, and would at the same time specify that place as an

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extremely high-risk place to restrict persons who have stayed in that place for more than two hours from boarding passenger flights for Hong Kong for 14 days, so as to prevent persons from the relevant place from arriving at Hong Kong via transit.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202104/18/P2021041800858.htm>

In addition, the HKSAR Government gazetted the directions and specifications under the Prevention and Control of Disease (Requirements and Directions) (Business and Premises) Regulation (Cap. 599F), the Prevention and Control of Disease (Prohibition on Group Gathering) Regulation (Cap. 599G) and the Prevention and Control of Disease (Wearing of Mask) Regulation (Cap. 599I) to maintain the social distancing measures currently in place, and specify that staff members of premises who have completed a COVID-19 vaccination course will not be required to undergo regular testing. The directions and specifications will take effect till April 28.

A spokesman for the Food and Health Bureau said that the number of local confirmed cases has declined to a lower level. However, to continue containing the spread of the disease and to strive for “zero case” as soon as possible, it is still required to maintain existing social distancing measures for the coming two weeks for prudence’s sake.

For details of the latest requirements and restrictions, please visit the link below:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202104/14/P2021041400025.htm>

### **CE appeals to people to support new direction in fighting pandemic**

The Chief Executive of the HKSAR, Mrs Carrie Lam, together with the relevant Directors of Bureaux and a department head, held a press conference on April 12 and announced that a new direction in fighting the pandemic would be adopted down the road. Elucidating the adjustment of various anti-epidemic measures with “vaccine bubble” as the basis, Mrs Lam appealed to members of the public to get vaccinated sooner so that Hong Kong can gradually return to normality, and the flow of people with the Mainland and overseas can be restored as soon as possible.

Mrs Lam said that during the months-long fourth wave of the epidemic, the Government’s strategy of “preventing the importation of cases” has successfully stopped the virus variants from entering the city, and the spread of the disease in the community has been curbed with its enhanced capabilities. The Government will adopt a new direction in fighting the pandemic to restore the city to normality in a gradual and orderly manner.

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Under the concept of “vaccine bubble”, six types of premises which are currently required to be closed (including bars or pubs, bath-houses, party rooms, clubs or nightclubs, mahjong-tin kau premises and karaoke establishments) can resume operation gradually having regard to their business nature. Other relaxation measures that can be considered under the concept of “vaccine bubble” may also cover visits of public hospital patients and residents of residential care homes for the elderly; quotas and venues of religious activities, weddings, annual meetings of companies, etc.; and local tour groups and more.

In addition, the Government plans to expand the Return2hk Scheme for Hong Kong residents returning from Guangdong Province to other places in the Mainland by the end of April. The Government also plans to launch a new scheme to allow non-Hong Kong people entering Hong Kong from the Mainland without the need to undergo the 14-day compulsory quarantine, further restoring the flow of people between the two places.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202104/12/P2021041200923.htm>

### **HKSAR Government strongly opposes and deplors harbouring of criminals by countries**

A spokesman for the HKSAR Government made a solemn statement on April 9, opposing the harbouring of criminals in any form by any country, region, organisation or individual, and expressed strong disapproval. The HKSAR Government emphasises that any society that upholds the rule of law should not accept anyone being above the law or having the privilege to break the law without facing legal consequences.

In Hong Kong, any arrest and prosecution is directed against the criminal act and has nothing to do with the political stance, background or thought of the person(s) concerned; arrest and prosecution are based on facts and evidence, and conducted in strict accordance with the law.

Any country, region, organisation or individual that harbours Hong Kong criminals in any form shows contempt for the rule of law, grossly disrespects Hong Kong’s legal systems and barbarically interferes in the affairs of Hong Kong. The HKSAR Government strongly opposes and deplors such acts.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202104/09/P2021040900585.htm>

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### **Visa-free access to Oman for HKSAR passport holders**

The Government of the HKSAR has received notification from the Honorary Consulate of the Sultanate of Oman (Oman) in Hong Kong that HKSAR passport holders may visit Oman visa-free for a stay of up to 10 days upon arrival with a confirmed hotel reservation, health insurance and a return air ticket.

An Immigration Department spokesman said that Oman is along the Belt and Road. Under the Belt and Road Initiative, this visa-free arrangement will bring greater travel convenience to the travellers of Hong Kong after the epidemic and strengthen the tourism, cultural and economic ties between the two places.

Including Oman, 168 countries/territories have granted visa-free access or visa-on-arrival to HKSAR passport holders.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202104/09/P2021040900566.htm>

### **Turkish advertising and brand agency builds stronghold in Hong Kong**

Turkish creative advertising and brand consulting agency Dantatsu Creative Agency Limited announced on April 15 that it has officially opened its Hong Kong office, as the city offers a strategic point for the company to leverage the buoyant Mainland market.

With the establishment of the Hong Kong office, Dantatsu aims to help Turkish and European brands to enter the China market, and also offer its creativity and know-how to help Chinese and international brands expand their business overseas. It has formed a team in Hong Kong with expertise in Chinese social media platforms.

The company, founded in 2012 in Turkey, offers all-round marketing communication and creative strategies to a portfolio of more than 100 brands, including many global household names in the hospitality, food and beverage and automotive sectors, among others.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202104/15/P2021041200455.htm>

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**Children born in 2005 to 2007 or 2012 to 2018 should apply for new smart identity cards between May 3 and September 18, 2021**

The Immigration Department of the HKSAR Government announced on April 16 that children born in 2005 to 2007 or 2012 to 2018 and holding the old form of smart identity cards should apply for new smart identity cards in the company of either one of their parents or legal guardians at a Smart Identity Card Replacement Centre from May 3 to September 18.

However, children born between 2012 and 2018 who have never held a permanent identity card in connection with their applications for a HKSAR passport are not required to participate in the Territory-wide Identity Card Replacement Exercise.

Eligible applicants may make appointment bookings via the ImmD mobile application, the Internet ([www.gov.hk/newicbooking](http://www.gov.hk/newicbooking)), or the 24-hour telephone booking hotline 2121 1234.

If eligible Hong Kong residents are absent from Hong Kong during their call-up period, they can apply within 30 days of their return to Hong Kong.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202104/16/P2021041600696.htm>

**Article to showcase Hong Kong’s unique advantages**

The Economist, in partnership with the Information Services Department, has produced a print advertorial “Hong Kong - Your Smart Choice for Family Offices” to show how Hong Kong offers many unique advantages for family offices to operate and grow. Please click the following link for details of the article:

[https://www.brandhk.gov.hk/uploads/brandhk/files/media\\_corner/2021-04-09-The-Economist-Hong-Kong-Your-Smart-Choice-for-Family-Offices.pdf](https://www.brandhk.gov.hk/uploads/brandhk/files/media_corner/2021-04-09-The-Economist-Hong-Kong-Your-Smart-Choice-for-Family-Offices.pdf)

Bloomberg, in partnership with the Information Services Department, has created a piece of branded content “Fusion power - Fuelling global innovation from Hong Kong and the GBA as a whole” to discuss how Hong Kong has become an incubation hub for biotech innovators. Please click the following link for details of the article:

[https://sponsored.bloomberg.com/news/sponsors/features/brand-hong-kong/introducing-the-new-dawn/?adv=13788&prx\\_t=GacGA4ghMAYikPA](https://sponsored.bloomberg.com/news/sponsors/features/brand-hong-kong/introducing-the-new-dawn/?adv=13788&prx_t=GacGA4ghMAYikPA)

In addition, CGTN published an article “Hong Kong will emerge stronger” written by the Chief Executive of the HKSAR, Mrs Carrie Lam. Please visit the link below for details:

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<https://news.cgtn.com/news/2021-04-13/CGTN-Exclusive-Hong-Kong-will-emerge-stronger-writes-Carrie-Lam-ZowfYyPfKo/index.html>

The American Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong, with the support of the Invest Hong Kong, has launched a new one-stop website for those interested in living, investing and working in Hong Kong. Please click the link for details: [www.liveinvest.hk](http://www.liveinvest.hk)

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

Department of Health of the HKSAR Government 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 \(Child Assessment\)\)](#)

To stay tuned to updates on HKETO and Hong Kong, please follow us at

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HKETO Toronto Twitter Page <https://twitter.com/TorontoHKETO>

Brand Hong Kong Facebook page [www.facebook.com/brandhk.isd](https://www.facebook.com/brandhk.isd) or

Brand Hong Kong Instagram page [www.instagram.com/brandhongkong/](https://www.instagram.com/brandhongkong/)

Brand Hong Kong Twitter page [https://twitter.com/Brand\\_HK](https://twitter.com/Brand_HK)

## *Hong Kong e-News Bulletin*

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