

August 11, 2021



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

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Under the border control measures of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government introduced on August 9, 2021, overseas places are categorised into high-risk, medium-risk and low-risk groups. Canada is currently in Group B (Medium-risk) group, under which Hong Kong residents and fully vaccinated non-Hong Kong residents are allowed to board flights for Hong Kong. Please refer to the following press release and Annex contained therein for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202108/03/P2021080200985.htm>

Travellers from Canada are required to present at boarding (i) a negative result proof of a polymerase chain reaction (PCR)-based nucleic acid test for COVID-19 conducted within 72 hours before the scheduled time of departure of the aircraft; (ii) confirmation in English or Chinese of room reservation in a designated quarantine hotel in Hong Kong; and (iii) a vaccination record if applicable. The same requirements apply to travellers who have stayed in Canada during the 14 days before boarding the flight to Hong Kong.

Also, travellers who have been fully vaccinated and hold a positive result proof of a serology antibody test, issued by a laboratory recognised by the HKSAR Government within the past 3 months, are subject to a further shortened quarantine period. Travellers must present a recognised serology antibody test result proof at boarding. With effect from August 18, 2021, self-paid serology antibody testing service will be available at the Hong Kong International Airport for inbound travellers. Please refer to the webpage <https://www.coronavirus.gov.hk/eng/inbound-travel.html#quarantinemeasuresofinbound> for details.

The "COVID-19 Thematic Website" of the HKSAR Government has been added to the official website of Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office (Toronto) (HKETO). You are invited to browse the page by clicking the banner on top of [HKETO website](#) or the link: <https://www.coronavirus.gov.hk>

August 11, 2021

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.

UPCOMING ACTIVITY

FANTASIA International Film Festival 2021

The Fantasia International Film Festival 2021 will take place from August 5 to 25 in hybrid mode (virtual and in-person). In partnership with HKETO, the Festival will present six Hong Kong films including:

- 1) SEPTET: THE STORY OF HK (七人樂隊) - live screening at the Imperial Theatre of Montreal on August 9
- 2) RAGING FIRE (怒火) - live screening at the Imperial Theatre of Montreal on August 10
- 3) ONE SECOND CHAMPION (一秒拳王) - virtual screening on August 21
- 4) TIME (殺出個黃昏) - virtual screening on August 23
- 5) HAND ROLLED CIGARETTE (手捲煙) - virtual screening on August 24
- 6) RETURN OF THE BASTARD SWORDSMAN (布衣神相) - virtual screening from August 6 to 25

Tickets are on sale now. Please click the following link for details:
<https://fantasiafestival.com/en/how-to-buy-tickets>

Information about the six Hong Kong films is available at:
<https://fantasiafestival.com/en/festival-2021/program/movies?countryId=581708>

RECENT ACTIVITIES

HKETO Director joins networking meeting to promote business opportunities in the Belt and Road Initiative

Director of the HKETO, Ms Emily Mo, joined the “WIN@HKCBA Virtual Mission to Belt and Road Summit 2021” pre-mission networking meeting hosted virtually by Women’s International Network of the Hong Kong-Canada Business Association (Toronto Section) on August 5. The meeting aims to promote the abundant business opportunities arising from the Belt and Road Initiative for Canada companies.

Ms Mo also highlighted that Hong Kong is the ideal partner for Canada companies to grasp the vast opportunities presented by the Belt and Road Initiative. She stressed that Hong Kong’s growing integration with the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay

August 11, 2021



Area presents untapped potential for Canada's sustainable, inclusive and innovative businesses.

Ms Mo encouraged Canadian companies to join the upcoming 7th edition of the Belt and Road Summit to be held virtually from September 1 to 2. The Summit will allow participants to exchange insights on multilateral cooperation and explore concrete business opportunities with senior government officials and business leaders from countries and regions along and beyond the Belt and Road.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.hketotoronto.gov.hk/newsroom/hketo-director-joins-networking-meeting-to-promote-business-opportunities-in-the-belt-and-road-initiative.html>

Six Hong Kong films featured at Fantasia International Film Festival 2021

The HKETO is supporting the screening of six Hong Kong films at the 25th Fantasia International Film Festival being held from August 5 to 25. This year the Fantasia festival is presenting its programme in person and online for moviegoers in Montreal and film lovers across Canada.

Speaking before the screening of the Hong Kong films in a pre-recorded message, the Director of the HKETO, Ms Emily Mo, remarked that Hong Kong has long been a favourite location for moviemakers from around the globe. The HKSAR Government has been very supportive of the film industry's development and around HK\$260 million has been earmarked under the Film Development Fund to increase local film production and nurture young talents.

Ms Mo said that the HKETO will continue to support more Hong Kong films to participate in various international film festivals held in Canada, including Fantasia.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.hketotoronto.gov.hk/newsroom/six-hong-kong-films-featured-at-fantasia-international-film-festival-2021.html>

HONG KONG NEWS

Hong Kong, China Delegation makes history with distinguished results at Tokyo Olympics

With the closing of the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games on August 8, the Chief Executive of the HKSAR, Mrs Carrie Lam, concluded the performance of the Hong Kong, China

August 11, 2021



Delegation. She expressed her utmost admiration for the athletes' best results in Hong Kong history and her gratitude for the staunch support of various sectors to the athletes.

The Hong Kong athletes have displayed the extraordinary capability of Hong Kong at the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games, capturing a gold medal, two silver medals and three bronze medals in five sports and achieving Hong Kong's best results in history.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202108/08/P2021080800763.htm>

On August 10, Mrs Lam announced various measures conducive to the sustainable development of sports in Hong Kong. She also called on the academic sector, enterprises and members of the public to further support Hong Kong athletes to scale new heights, as well as to promote the professionalisation of sports and the development of the sports industry in Hong Kong.

Mrs Lam said that the HKSAR Government has been proactively allocating resources to develop elite sports in the past decade. In the year of 2021/22, the Government's annual funding for the Hong Kong Sports Institute (HKSI), through the Elite Athletes Development Fund, amounted to HK\$737 million, representing an increase of about 42 per cent over the year of 2017/18. The HKSAR Government will continue to support sports development in Hong Kong in terms of policy, facilities and resources.

Measures announced by Mrs Lam to further support sports development include:

- (1) Expediting the new building project of the HKSI
- (2) Establishing a fund to enhance the competitiveness of athletes
- (3) Strengthening sports development at the school level
- (4) Strengthening support for elite athletes' dual career development in sports and academic pursuits
- (5) Development of the sports industry

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202108/10/P2021081000680.htm>

Government tightens border control measures to build anti-epidemic barrier

In view of the latest development in global and local COVID-19 epidemic situations, the HKSAR Government tightened the border control measures for overseas inbound travellers based on "vaccine bubble" in order to build an anti-epidemic barrier to prevent the importation of cases. The new measures took effect from August 9.

August 11, 2021

Under the new measures, the HKSAR Government will adopt a risk-based approach and re-categorise overseas places into high-risk, medium-risk and low-risk groups. Boarding, quarantine and testing requirements will be implemented based on risk levels. Only fully vaccinated Hong Kong residents are allowed to board flights for Hong Kong from high-risk places. For medium-risk places (currently including Canada), only Hong Kong residents and fully vaccinated non-Hong Kong residents are allowed to board flights for Hong Kong. All inbound travellers are required to comply with stringent quarantine measures and repeated testing.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202108/03/P2021080200985.htm>

In addition, the Government elaborated on the arrangements applicable to children aged under 12, and strengthen the compulsory testing requirements applicable to persons arriving from low-risk places. The Government also announced that the self-paid serology antibody testing service at the airport for travellers eligible to enter Hong Kong will be rolled out from August 18.

Details on the grouping of specified places and their respective boarding and compulsory quarantine requirements can be found at www.coronavirus.gov.hk/eng/inbound-travel.html.

Click the following links for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202108/07/P2021080700596.htm>

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202108/09/P2021080900917.htm>

Meanwhile, the HKSAR Government announced on August 5 adjustments and clarifications on the quarantine and testing arrangements for persons arriving at Hong Kong from places in the Mainland other than Guangdong Province, Macao, and Taiwan, in view of the latest situation.

The quarantine and testing arrangements applicable to persons arriving at Hong Kong from the above places will tally with those quarantine and testing arrangements that are implemented for persons arriving from overseas medium-risk and low-risk places (except persons arriving at Hong Kong from the Mainland or Macao who may undergo compulsory quarantine at home).

Please click the link below for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202108/06/P2021080500905.htm>

August 11, 2021



The HKSAR Government also announced on July 30 the list of designated quarantine hotels for the fifth cycle of the Designated Quarantine Hotel Scheme. A total of 37 hotels will provide about 10 000 rooms in the new cycle, which runs from September 1 to November 30. The Government may adjust the number of rooms available in this cycle as and where necessary.

The updated list of Designated Quarantine Hotels, including room rates, can be found at www.designatedhotel.gov.hk.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202107/30/P2021073000602.htm>

Government maintains social distancing measures under Prevention and Control of Disease Ordinance

The HKSAR Government gazetted 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. The above directions and specifications will take effect till August 18.

A spokesman for the Food and Health Bureau of the HKSAR Government said that with the concerted efforts of the public and the Government in fighting the virus, Hong Kong has basically attained the goal of “zero local cases” and the society has gradually resumed normality based on “vaccine bubble”. However, the Delta mutant strain ravaging the world has posed incredible challenges to local anti-epidemic efforts. There is a need for Hong Kong to build up double barriers against COVID-19 by strengthening measures on preventing importation of cases and enhancing vaccination rate.

Please click the following link for details about the requirements and restrictions under the latest directions:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202108/03/P2021080300863.htm>

Security Bureau strongly deplores Canada’s misrepresentation on Immigration (Amendment) Ordinance 2021

Regarding the Canadian Government’s update of its travel advisories for Hong Kong, accusing that the provisions of the Immigration (Amendment) Ordinance 2021 (Amendment Ordinance), which took effect officially on August 1, are vaguely defined and

August 11, 2021



might restrict individuals from leaving Hong Kong, the Security Bureau of the HKSAR Government on August 5 strongly deplored such misrepresentation.

A spokesman for the Security Bureau said that the provision under the Amendment Ordinance is to fulfil the international obligation of the HKSAR under the “Convention on International Civil Aviation” to implement the Advance Passenger Information (API) system. Based on the relevant requirements, airlines need to provide passenger and crew member information to the Immigration Department before flight departure to Hong Kong. It will only apply to flights heading to Hong Kong. So far, over 90 countries already have the API system in place, including Canada, the Member States of the European Union, the United States of America and Australia.

The Security Bureau stressed that the freedom to travel and the right to enter or leave Hong Kong of Hong Kong residents are guaranteed under Article 31 of the Basic Law. It called on the Canadian Government to modify its stance.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202108/05/P2021080500787.htm>

HKSARG expresses utter dismay at irresponsible remarks by US and EU officials

A spokesman of the HKSAR Government on July 31 expresses deep regret and utter dismay at some irresponsible remarks made by officials of the United States (US) State Department and the European Union (EU)’s office on foreign affairs and security policy on the conviction and sentencing handed down by the Court of First Instance of the HKSAR against an offender under the Hong Kong National Security Law.

The spokesman pointed out that Hong Kong prides herself on the rule of law. Hong Kong’s robust legal system premised on the common law and the independent judicial power, including that of final adjudication, is cornerstone of Hong Kong’s success and has been well recognised around the world.

The spokesman stressed that after the implementation of the National Security Law, Hong Kong people’s rights and freedoms under the Basic Law as well as the relevant provisions of International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights as applied to Hong Kong continue to be protected. Among others, the media and the general public continue to exercise their right to monitor the Government’s work and the freedom of criticising policies.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202107/31/P2021073100580.htm>

August 11, 2021



In addition, the HKSAR Government on August 6 expressed strong opposition to the latest actions by the US Government against the HKSAR under the so-called “Memorandum on the Deferred Enforced Departure for Certain Hong Kong Residents”.

A Government spokesman reiterated that that national security is a matter within the purview of the Central Authorities. The Hong Kong National Security Law has reversed the chaotic situation in Hong Kong. Since its implementation, stability, which is vital to business activities, has been restored to society and national security has been safeguarded in the HKSAR.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202108/06/P2021080600649.htm>

Candidates interested in applying for AO, EOII, ALOII, ATOII, MSOII and TOII posts reminded to apply for Common Recruitment Examination and Basic Law Test

The HKSAR Government announced on August 6 that the next round of recruitment exercises for the posts of Administrative Officer (AO), Executive Officer II (EOII), Assistant Labour Officer II (ALOII), Assistant Trade Officer II (ATOII), Management Services Officer II (MSOII) and Transport Officer II (TOII) will begin in September 2021.

As part of the entry requirements, applicants for these posts will need to have obtained:

- (a) Level 2 in the two language papers (Use of Chinese and Use of English) in the Common Recruitment Examination (CRE) or equivalent results;
- (b) a Pass result in the Aptitude Test (AT) paper in the CRE; and
- (c) a Pass result in the Basic Law Test (BLT) (degree/professional grades).

Prospective applicants for civil service posts at degree or professional level can apply from August 7 to sit the CRE and BLT in Hong Kong tentatively scheduled to be held on October 2 and 9, or another date within October if necessary.

For the convenience of those studying or residing outside Hong Kong, the CRE and BLT is also tentatively scheduled to be held on December 4 in seven other cities, namely Beijing, London, San Francisco, New York, Toronto, Vancouver and Sydney. The call for applications for taking the examination outside Hong Kong will be made later this year. The examination outside Hong Kong might only be held subject to the regulations and prevailing measures in that particular city in the light of the development of COVID-19. Persons applying to sit the examination in Hong Kong will not be allowed to apply again for sitting the examination outside Hong Kong.

August 11, 2021



More details about the coming CRE and BLT is available on the CSB webpage (www.csb.gov.hk/eng/cre.html).

Click the following links for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202108/06/P2021080600584.htm>

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202108/06/P2021080600350.htm>

Government yearbook “Hong Kong 2020”

The latest government yearbook, “Hong Kong 2020”, has been published and the online version in English, traditional Chinese and simplified Chinese is now available at www.yearbook.gov.hk for readers to access any time.

With a wealth of facts and figures, the yearbook provides an extensive account of government policy and activities and an overview of Hong Kong’s life and developments in 2020. There are 22 chapters covering different subjects and 10 colour sections with more than 90 photos of events, people and places in Hong Kong.

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

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August 11, 2021



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