

Jan 12, 2022



### **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)

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. With effect from 2 December, 2021 Canada will be specified as Group A (High-risk) group, under which non-Hong Kong residents who have stayed in Canada during the 21 days before boarding the flight to Hong Kong are not allowed to enter Hong Kong.

In view of the rapidly worsening global epidemic situation due to the Omicron variant, a series of measures have been implemented, including the following:

- 1) shortening the lead time for specimen collection for pre-departure nucleic acid tests for persons boarding for flights to Hong Kong from 72 hours to 48 hours with effective from December 24; and
- 2) requiring persons arriving at Hong Kong from Group A places with enhanced surveillance to undergo compulsory quarantine at a quarantine centre for the first four days of arrival at Hong Kong with effect from December 21. They have to undergo daily testing in the first seven days of arrival at Hong Kong, and to undergo testing on alternate days thereafter.

For Hong Kong residents, they can only board a flight for Hong Kong if they have been fully vaccinated and hold a recognised vaccination record. Please refer to the following press release for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202112/20/P2021122000964.htm?fontSize=1>

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 48 hours before the scheduled time of departure of the aircraft; (ii) confirmation in

Jan 12, 2022



English or Chinese of room reservation in a designated quarantine hotel in Hong Kong; and (iii) a recognised vaccination record. Please refer to the following webpage for details: <https://www.coronavirus.gov.hk/eng/inbound-travel.html#quarantinemeasures2>

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>

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 EVENTS**

### **Hong Kong Deep Dive: Quantifying the Economic Impact of China and Hong Kong in Canada**

The Canada China Business Council (CCBC) and Hong Kong-Canada Business Association (HKCBA) will release on January 18 the outcome of a CCBC-commissioned research by the China Institute at the University of Alberta on the history and current status of trade and investment between Canada and Hong Kong, as well as an analysis of issues and trends that may influence Hong Kong’s future role and relationship with Canada.

HKETO is a special sponsor of the event. For details and registration, please click: [https://ccbc.com/event/hong-kong-deep-dive-quantifying-the-economic-impact-of-china-and-hong-kong-in-canada/?instance\\_id=776](https://ccbc.com/event/hong-kong-deep-dive-quantifying-the-economic-impact-of-china-and-hong-kong-in-canada/?instance_id=776)

### **HKCBA (Toronto) Lunar New Year Celebration**

HKCBA (Toronto) will organise the Lunar New Year Virtual Celebration on January 29 to welcome the Year of the Tiger. Festive and cultural focus on Hong Kong will draw the participants in games and lucky draws. HKETO is a special sponsor of the event. For details, please click: <https://toronto.hkcba.com/cpages/home>

### **Brampton Chinese Business Association Chinese New Year online event**

Brampton Chinese Business Association, with the support of the City of Brampton, will organise the Lunar New Year event virtually starting from end of January to early February via the City of Brampton’s website and various social media platforms. HKETO is a sponsor of the event.

Jan 12, 2022



### **Mississauga Chinese Business Association virtual Chinese New Year Reception**

The Mississauga Chinese Business Association (MCBA) on February 1 will organise the virtual Chinese New Year Reception to celebrate the Chinese New Year with the mainstream community and introduce the Chinese New Year culture to the residents in Mississauga. MCBA Board of Directors, members of the community and business sector will meet together online to send Chinese New Year greetings to each other and bring best wishes to the participants at the event. HKETO is a supporter of the event.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/9ovmv7wsv3vc1np/MCBA%20LNY%20reception%20poster.jpg?dl=0>

### **Dragon Ball 2022**

The 33rd Dragon Ball hosted by the Yee Hong Community Wellness Foundation will be held online on February 5 (the 5th day of the Chinese New Year of the Tiger). The Dragon Ball 2022 aims to share this major Chinese traditional festival with people in the community and around the world. Aside from enjoying the many Hong Kong performances in the livestream show, participants will also get a Hong Kong themed gift box with a souvenir and a booklet from HKETO, among others.

For more details, please click the link below:

<https://www.yeehongdragonball.org/>

### **Cybersecurity and Fintech - A Symbiotic Success webinar**

HKCBA (Montreal) will organise a webinar entitled “Cybersecurity and Fintech - A Symbiotic Success” on February 9 at 9am (EST). During the pandemic, cybersecurity becomes one of the most important aspects of fintech in the modern world. Canada produces an impressive number of cybersecurity, regtech and compliance-related operations while Hong Kong is a global leader for the establishment of fintech companies. The webinar will explore how these two regions interact with Canadian entrepreneurs choosing Hong Kong as their location of choice for entering into the Asian market. HKETO and Invest Hong Kong are supporters of this webinar.

Registration is free at: <https://montreal.hkcba.com/events/cybersecurity-and-fintech-a-symbiotic-success>

Jan 12, 2022

## HONG KONG NEWS

### **Government implements place-specific flight suspension mechanism and tightens boarding and quarantine requirements for places in response to Omicron variant**

The HKSAR Government announced on January 5 that in view of the rapidly worsening global pandemic situation due to the Omicron variant, and with reference to inbound passenger traffic and the number of imported cases, it will, from January 8 to January 21, implement the place-specific flight suspension mechanism for Australia, **Canada**, France, India, Pakistan, the Philippines, the United Kingdom and the United States of America. All passenger flights from these eight places will be prohibited from landing in Hong Kong, and at the same time, persons who have stayed in these places for more than two hours will be restricted from boarding passenger flights for Hong Kong, so as to stop persons from the relevant places from travelling to Hong Kong via transit.

Click the following for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202201/05/P2022010500713.htm>

Meanwhile, Hongkong Post announced on December 31 that, owing to the substantial reduction in flight frequencies or even cancellation of flights by airlines for certain destinations, all airmail services (including Speedpost) to Australia, **Canada**, Mexico and the United States will be suspended from January 1 until further notice. Hongkong Post will continue working closely with air freight contractors for resumption of the impacted services as soon as possible.

Members of the public may visit the following web page of Hongkong Post on the service availability for overseas destinations:

[www.hongkongpost.hk/en/about\\_us/whats\\_new/notices/index\\_id\\_1105.html](http://www.hongkongpost.hk/en/about_us/whats_new/notices/index_id_1105.html)

Click the following for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202112/31/P2021123100585.htm>

On the other hand, the HKSAR Government announced over the last two weeks that in view of the latest global developments of the COVID-19 pandemic situation, the countries below have been specified as Group A specified places and the boarding and quarantine requirements for relevant inbound travellers will be tightened:

Belarus, Curaçao and Vietnam from January 2

Libya from January 3

Barbados, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Guinea, St Kitts and Nevis, St Vincent and the Grenadines, and Uruguay from January 4

Jan 12, 2022

Bulgaria from January 6

Martinique from January 7

Cape Verde, Niger and South Sudan from January 8

Grenada, Mauritania and Mayotte from January 9

Iraq from January 10

Antigua and Barbuda, Bolivia, Cote d'Ivoire, Gabon, Gambia, Laos and Mongolia from January 11

Solomon Islands from January 12

Uzbekistan from January 13

Azerbaijan from January 14

Non-Hong Kong residents who have stayed in the above countries within 21 days will not be allowed to enter Hong Kong. Hong Kong residents can only board a flight for Hong Kong if they have been fully vaccinated and hold a recognised vaccination record. They will have to undergo compulsory quarantine in a designated quarantine hotel for 21 days upon returning to Hong Kong, with six tests to be conducted during quarantine, followed by compulsory testing in a community testing centre on the 26th day of arrival in Hong Kong.

Details on the relevant boarding and compulsory quarantine requirements for respective specified places can be found at [www.coronavirus.gov.hk/eng/inbound-travel.html](http://www.coronavirus.gov.hk/eng/inbound-travel.html).

Click the following links for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202112/30/P2021123000755.htm>

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202112/31/P2021123100516.htm>

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202201/01/P2022010100499.htm>

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202201/03/P2022010300532.htm>

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202201/04/P2022010400545.htm>

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202201/06/P2022010600560.htm>

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202201/07/P2022010700494.htm>

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202201/08/P2022010800477.htm>

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202201/09/P2022010900428.htm>

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202201/10/P2022011000521.htm>

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202201/11/P2022011100450.htm>

In addition, the HKSAR Government announced on December 31 the list of designated quarantine hotels for the seventh cycle of the Designated Quarantine Hotel Scheme. A total of 44 hotels will provide about 12 500 rooms in the new cycle, which runs from March 1 to July 31, 2022. The Government may adjust the number of rooms available in this cycle as and where necessary.

Jan 12, 2022



The list of DQHs in the seventh cycle and related details, including room rates, will be uploaded to the thematic webpage at [www.designatedhotel.gov.hk](http://www.designatedhotel.gov.hk).

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202112/31/P2021123100368.htm>

### **Government tightens social distancing measures in view of latest epidemic situation**

In view of the development of COVID-19 epidemic situation in Hong Kong, the HKSAR Government announces on January 5 that it would tighten social distancing measures with effect from January 7 to January 20.

A Government spokesman said that the virus had spread into the local community due to several imported cases concerning exempted air crew members, and silent transmission chains may have already existed in the community. The HKSAR Government must adopt stringent measures with a view to containing the epidemic as early as possible. The Government will tighten social distancing measures to the most stringent level as seen during the third and fourth waves of the epidemic, with a view to reducing public traffic, social functions and crowd gatherings to the greatest extent.

You can click the following link for details of the latest requirements and measures:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202201/05/P2022010500859.htm>

### **Asian Financial Forum explores into next normal and sustainable future amid gradual recovery of global economy**

The 15th Asian Financial Forum (AFF), co-organised by the HKSAR Government and the Hong Kong Trade Development Council were held on January 10 and 11. The event provides a premier platform for thousands of leaders in government, finance and business from over 80 countries and regions to exchange insights and explore business and investment opportunities. It is also one of the events to kick-start celebrations for the 25th Anniversary of the Establishment of the HKSAR.

Under the theme "Navigating the Next Normal towards a Sustainable Future", the AFF conducted in virtual format this year offers a platform to discuss the key factors shaping the future global economic landscape as the world adapts to the new normal, and how different stakeholders can help realise sustainable and inclusive development through impact investment, forward-looking business practices or decisive policies.

Addressing the opening session of the AFF, the Chief Executive of the HKSAR, Mrs

Jan 12, 2022



Carrie Lam, said that with "one country, two systems" back on the right track, international investors and observers had shown confidence in Hong Kong. She also stressed that the HKSAR Government, in collaboration with the financial regulators and the industry, was stepping up the efforts to promote green and sustainable finance in Hong Kong, with a view to contributing to achieving the carbon neutrality goals in Hong Kong and in the Mainland.

The forum this year continues to feature the Fintech Showcase, FintechHK Start-up Salon and InnoVenture Salon, as well as the Global Investment Zone, to enable more than 130 local and overseas international financial institutions, technology enterprises, start-ups and investment agencies to present their latest financial innovations, next-generation businesses and investment opportunities across regions and sectors.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202201/10/P2022011000793.htm>

### **Hong Kong residents born in 1983, 1984, 1987 or 1988 should apply for new smart identity cards between January 19 and April 2**

The Immigration Department of the HKSAR Government announced on January 5 that Hong Kong residents born in 1983, 1984, 1987 or 1988 and holding the old form of smart identity card should bring along their identity cards and apply for new smart identity cards in person at a Smart Identity Card Replacement Centre from January 19 to April 2.

The Territory-wide Identity Card Replacement Exercise covers all Hong Kong residents, who should apply for new smart identity cards in person at the SIDCCs during specified periods, whether they are permanent residents or non-permanent residents who are permitted to take up employment, make investment, reside or study in Hong Kong.

Eligible Hong Kong residents who are absent from Hong Kong during their call-up period can apply within 30 days upon their return to Hong Kong. For details of the Replacement Exercise, please visit the website [www.smartid.gov.hk](http://www.smartid.gov.hk).

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202201/05/P2022010500369.htm>

### **ICAC updates international communities on anti-corruption efforts**

The latest issue of the ICAC's electronic newsletter, ICAC Post - *New Role in Fighting Graft*, has been uploaded on the ICAC corporate website.

Jan 12, 2022



Highlight of this issue is “ICAC Chief elected IAACA President”.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.icac.org.hk/icac/post/extra2022/en/index.html>

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

HKETO Toronto Facebook Page [www.facebook.com/TorontoHKETO](http://www.facebook.com/TorontoHKETO)

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

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

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

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

This message was sent from the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Toronto, 174 St. George Street, Toronto, ON M5R 2M7.

For enquiries, please contact:

Miss Hilda Chow, Public Relations Officer, at

[hilda\\_chow@hketotoronto.gov.hk](mailto:hilda_chow@hketotoronto.gov.hk) or 416-924-5544.

For help setting up your business in Hong Kong, please contact:

Mr. Christopher Chen, Head of Investment Promotion at

[christopher\\_chen@hketotoronto.gov.hk](mailto:christopher_chen@hketotoronto.gov.hk) or visit [www.InvestHK.gov.hk](http://www.InvestHK.gov.hk)

You are receiving this e-mail for information only. You may at any time unsubscribe from receiving our communications by contacting us at [info@hketotoronto.gov.hk](mailto:info@hketotoronto.gov.hk); or, simply click [here](#) to unsubscribe.