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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)

Under the border control measures of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government, overseas places are categorised into high-risk, medium-risk and low-risk groups. **Canada** is currently specified as Group A (High-risk) group and also on the "List of Specified Places with Flight Suspension". Travellers who have stayed in Canada during the 14 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. the place-specific flight suspension mechanism for Canada has been extended to April 20;
2. the compulsory quarantine period for inbound travellers from overseas places has been adjusted to 14 days in designated quarantine hotels (DQH), to be followed by a seven-day self-monitoring period;
3. shortening the lead time for specimen collection for pre-departure nucleic acid tests for persons boarding for flights to Hong Kong to 48 hours; and
4. requiring persons arriving at Hong Kong to undergo six tests during quarantine at DQH and compulsory testing on the 16th and 19th days.

For details of the above quarantine measures, please read the following press release:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202202/11/P2022021100536.htm>

Please check the latest entry restrictions and quarantine requirements before travelling to Hong Kong:

<https://www.coronavirus.gov.hk/eng/inbound-travel.html#quarantinemeasures2>

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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>

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **“Windows of Opportunity” webinar**

Hong Kong-Canada Business Association (HKCBA) (Calgary Section), HKETO and the Hong Kong Trade Development Council will co-host a webinar “windows of opportunity” to brief participants on the latest opportunities in Asia in the new normal, what the Hong Kong platform has to offer to Canadian companies, and the upcoming sector-specific windows of opportunity for them to leverage. The webinar will be held on March 17 at 12 Noon (EST).

Registrations are complimentary at <https://bit.ly/031722>

Click the following link for details.

<https://calgary.hkcba.com/events/webinar-adding-value-to-your-asia-business-development-plan-in-the-new-normal>

### **iPitch Case Competition 2022**

The Junior Hong Kong-Canada Business Association will host its annual iPitch Case Competition on March 20. Competing teams will present their creative ideas on topics of sustainability or business strategies to a panel of professional judges. HKETO is a sponsor of the event and will present the career opportunities and various admission schemes in Hong Kong at the event.

For details of the event, please click the following link:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/3045532319031566/>

### **Fireside Chat with Hong Kong Financial Secretary Paul Chan**

Toronto Finance International, Invest Hong Kong and Manulife will jointly organize a fireside chat with the Financial Secretary of HKSAR, Mr Paul Chan, on March 22 at 10am (EST). The webinar will be moderated by Manulife’s Chief Financial Officer, Mr Phil Witherington. The Ontario Finance Minister, the Honourable Peter Bethlenfalvy, will deliver opening remarks at the event.

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Mr Chan will speak to the Canadian business community under the topic “A New Era for Hong Kong” on how Hong Kong is working to ensure a sustainable future for the city’s economy and create future opportunities for Canadian companies. Mr. Chan will also discuss Hong Kong’s status as a global finance centre and potential areas of collaboration between Hong Kong and Canada.

Registrations are complimentary at:

<https://tfi.ca/events/fireside-chat-with-hong-kong-financial-secretary-paul-chan>

## **2022 ACCE Chinese Canadian Entrepreneur Awards Gala**

The 25th ACCE Award Gala will be hosted by the Association of Chinese Canadian Entrepreneurs (ACCE) on April 23. The ACCE Awards provide a platform to recognize Chinese Canadians who have started their business and made contribution to Canada. The event also serves to foster the spirit of entrepreneurship, innovation and corporate citizenship. HKETO is the sponsor of ACCE’s Best Asia Pacific Business Award which acknowledges the accomplishments of the Chinese Canadian entrepreneurs who have developed their businesses successfully in the Asia Pacific region through Hong Kong.

For details, please visit: <https://www.acce.ca/new/>

## **RECENT ACTIVITIES**

### **STEM jobs in Hong Kong event to attract IT talents to Hong Kong**

HKCBA (Montreal Section) jointly with Invest Hong Kong (InvestHK) and the HKETO held a virtual interactive recruitment event on March 3 to promote the science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) job opportunities in Hong Kong while enriching participants on Hong Kong’s vibrant innovation and technology (I&T) ecosystem.

In delivering opening remarks at the event, entitled “STEM Jobs in Hong Kong”, Director of the HKETO, Ms Emily Mo, noted that talents from the STEM sector are welcomed by Asian economies. The strong Canada-Hong Kong ties also make Hong Kong the best destination for Canadian talents. Looking ahead, Ms Mo is confident that Hong Kong is an attractive city for businesses and talents to thrive.

Following Ms Mo’s remarks, the Director-General of Investment Promotion, Mr Stephen Phillips elaborated on the abundant resources, excellent environment and job opportunities for startups and STEM talents in Hong Kong. Mr Phillips encouraged Canada companies and talents to grasp the vast I&T opportunities offered by Mainland

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China, in particular the affluent Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area development and consider setting foot or expand in the city.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.hketotoronto.gov.hk/newsroom/stem-jobs-in-hong-kong-event-to-attract-it-talents-to-hong-kong.html>

### **SFST speaks at the “Fintech Bridge: Canada - Hong Kong” Webinar**

The Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury of the HKSAR, Mr Christopher Hui, spoke at the “Fintech Bridge: Canada – Hong Kong” Webinar co-organised by the National Crowdfunding and Fintech Association of Canada and InvestHK on February 24.

Addressing the webinar, Mr Hui noted that the Global Financial Centres Index has placed Hong Kong as the world’s third most competitive financial services centre, just behind New York and London. As an international financial centre anchoring the world and serving the Mainland, Hong Kong possesses a deep and broad stock market.

Mr Hui also updated the audience on Hong Kong’s fintech sector in terms of infrastructure, regulations, innovation and talent nurturing. For the full text of his speech, please visit: <https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202202/25/P2022022500201.htm>

## **HONG KONG NEWS**

### **Government extends most social distancing measures**

In view of the very dire epidemic situation in Hong Kong, the Government announced on February 22 the tightening of social distancing measures which would be maintained till April 20. The Government further announced on March 8 the gazettal of the social distancing measures to extend most of them in accordance with the public health emergency regulations under the Prevention and Control of Disease Ordinance, with the next 14-day cycle taking effect from March 10 to March 23.

For catering premises and scheduled premises regulated under the Prevention and Control of Disease (Requirements and Directions) (Business and Premises) Regulation (Cap. 599F), the existing social distancing measures will be extended for two weeks. In view of citizens' actual demand for relevant services and the smooth implementation of the Vaccine Pass arrangement, barber shops or hair salons will be allowed to reopen with the full implementation of Vaccine Pass requirements.

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Other existing measures, such as allowing no more than two persons per group gathering in a public place, prohibition of multi-household gatherings at private premises involving more than two households, mask-wearing requirement and cessation of mass events to avoid group gatherings, will continue to be implemented.

Please click the following link for details of the latest requirements and restrictions:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202203/08/P2022030800555.htm>

### **Government expresses gratitude to Mainland's goodwill in supporting Hong Kong's fight against epidemic and making donations**

Since the outbreak of the fifth wave of the epidemic, various sectors in the Mainland have expressed their wishes to support Hong Kong's anti-epidemic efforts, or to donate money and necessary supplies. The HKSAR Government is very grateful to the care and support offered by the warmhearted Central Authorities, provinces, autonomous regions, as well as community organisations and individuals in relation to the HKSAR's anti-epidemic efforts during this difficult time.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202203/06/P2022030600600.htm>

In addition, the Chief Executive of the HKSAR, Mrs Carrie Lam, on March 4 met with the Head of the National Health Commission's COVID-19 leading task force, Professor Liang Wannian, and his expert delegation. Mrs Lam expressed her sincere gratitude to Professor Liang and the experts for their meetings one after another with the relevant officials of the HKSAR Government, representatives of the Hospital Authority, the Government's anti-epidemic expert advisory group and the Advisory Panel on COVID-19 Vaccines, and the faculty of medicine under a local university. Mrs Lam concurred with the experts that the current priority for the HKSAR Government was to focus resources on the patients most in need, prevent mild cases from turning severe, and reduce the number of severe cases and deaths.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202203/04/P2022030400709.htm>

Earlier, a spokesman for the HKSAR Government stressed that the Government will steadfastly assume the primary responsibility in fighting the virus, and that under the anti-epidemic mechanism led by the Chief Executive, Mrs Lam, the Secretaries of Departments and the Directors of Bureaux will continue to work in concert in shouldering the various anti-epidemic responsibilities to stabilise the epidemic situation early.

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To cope with the severity of the fifth wave of the epidemic and to ensure the effective implementation of the anti-epidemic measures supported by the Central Authorities, the Chief Executive has assigned special tasks to individual Directors of Bureaux upon the scrutiny by the inter-departmental Steering Committee cum Command Centre. They are requested to personally lead the relevant anti-epidemic work, mobilise the departments under their purview and be held accountable to the Chief Executive.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202203/05/P2022030500695.htm>

### **Government explains latest criteria for early discharge from isolation and home quarantine**

The HKSAR Government reiterated on March 6 that the latest criteria for early discharge from isolation for persons infected with COVID-19 and discharge from community isolation facilities (CIFs) or home quarantine for close contacts announced earlier is not applicable to those who have not been vaccinated or have only received one dose of COVID-19 vaccine.

For people who have not been vaccinated or have only received one dose of COVID-19 vaccine, no matter whether they are infected persons staying in CIFs, pending admission to hospitals or isolation facilities or close contacts under home quarantine, are required to undergo 14-day medical surveillance at CIF or home. They must also fulfil relevant testing requirements before being considered for completion of isolation or home quarantine.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202203/06/P2022030500719.htm>

In addition, the Vaccine Pass arrangement in Hong Kong has been fully implemented from February 24. In view of the updated COVID-19 vaccination arrangements for students and elderly persons, the Government adjusted the vaccination requirements for the Vaccine Pass correspondingly on March 4.

Under the latest vaccination arrangements made in accordance with the recommendation by experts, the time interval between the first dose and the second dose of Comirnaty vaccine for children and adolescents aged five to 17 will be shortened from 12 weeks to eight weeks.

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The relevant COVID-19 vaccination requirements for other age groups or applicable persons as well as the specified premises covered by the Vaccine Pass will remain unchanged.

For details of the vaccination arrangements under the Vaccine Pass, please visit: <https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202203/04/P2022030400692.htm>

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