



Govt urges 40-year-olds to start getting blood-sugar tests every 3 years

Yuki Lei

The “Macau Health Survey 2016” shows that nearly 20 percent of local senior citizens aged 65 and above live with diabetes, whilst the International Diabetes Federation (IDF) estimates that the number of people living with diabetes worldwide will rise from 537 million now to 783 million in 2045, in response to which the Health Bureau (SSM) is urging locals who have reached the age of 40 to start undergoing blood-sugar tests every three years.

According to previous statements by the bureau, Macau’s diabetes mortality rate in 2021, based on the latest available official statistics, stood at 9.2 per 100,000 population, while the awareness rate of diabetes mellitus and the treatment rate accounted for 68 percent and 93.9 percent respectively, and the glycaemic* control rate stood at 57.7 percent.

Yesterday was the World Diabetes Day, marked annually on November 14. Two doctors and a nurse – public Conde de São Januário Hospital Centre physician Tam Kuok Wa, Ilha Verde Health Centre Director Lok Mei Kun, and Fai Chi Kei Health Centre nurse Wong Si Iam – raised awareness of



This undated handout photo released by the Health Bureau (SSM) on Wednesday shows a local resident undergoing a blood glucose test.

diabetes in the community through separate interviews with local reporters on Wednesday.

Dr Tam pointed out that people with a family history of diabetes, high blood pressure and high cholesterol levels, as well as those aged 65 or above are all at high risk of developing diabetes, adding that excessive obesity or being overweight, a sedentary lifestyle

and physical inactivity, a diet high in sugar, fat and calories, and a lack of vegetables and fruit in one’s diet also increase the risk of diabetes mellitus.

“Diabetes is a common and manageable chronic disease, and early diagnosis and effective management can reduce the risk of complications,” said Dr Tam, who listed the common symptoms of diabetes as being very thirsty

and urinating frequently, at night in particular; a feeling of extreme and insatiable hunger; weight loss; fatigue and weakness; blurry vision; slow wound healing; frequent skin infections; tingling in hands and feet; and vaginal infections.

With the ageing of the population, diabetes, like other chronic diseases, will gradually increase in incidence and the burden



Join the fight against Dengue Fever
Vases or saucers under potted plants should be scrubbed, cleaned and have water changed at least once a week
MSARG Dengue Fever Prevention Working Group

of chronic diseases will continue to increase, Dr Lok said, quoting the bureau’s advice urging adults to check their blood glucose regularly for early detection and treatment.

According to Dr Lok, the bureau has launched its “I Cook My Own Healthy Diet (健康飲食我自煮)” cooking-video sharing campaign, which runs from the beginning of this month to the end of the year, to encourage residents to cook simple and nutritious dishes at home, with the aim of raising awareness of diabetes mellitus** and promote healthy eating among the population.

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Measles cases surge 20 pct, global study shows

GENEVA – Measles infections soared by a fifth last year to over 10 million cases globally, revealing alarming gaps in vaccine coverage, a study showed yesterday.

Worldwide, there were an estimated 10.3 million measles cases in 2023, according to a joint publication by the World Health Organisation and the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

That marked a 20-percent increase from 2022, the study showed, saying that “inadequate immunisation coverage globally is

driving the surge in cases”.

Measles is one of the world’s most infectious diseases. At least 95-percent coverage with two doses of the measles/rubella vaccine is needed to prevent outbreaks.

But in 2023, only 83 percent of children worldwide received their first dose of the measles vaccine through routine health services – the same level as in 2022 but down from 86 percent before the COVID-19 pandemic.

Only 74 percent received their second dose last year, the study showed. – AFP

Xi arrives in Lima for state visit to Peru, APEC meeting



LIMA – President Xi Jinping arrived late last night (Macau time) for a state visit to Peru and the 31st APEC Economic Leaders’ Meeting.

– (More on p.7) – Xinhua

Chinese living in Peru wait for the arrival of President Xi Jinping outside Air Force Base 8, adjacent to the Jorge Chávez International Airport, in Callao, Peru, late last night (Macau time). – AFP

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The Macau Post Daily

NEV annual production hits 10 million amid global carbon reduction efforts

China’s annual production of new energy vehicles (NEVs) surpassed the 10 million milestone for the first time yesterday, in an accelerated drive toward a greener future.

– Story on p. 7

London mayor says Trump attacks on him due to his ethnicity, faith

London Mayor Sadiq Khan has accused Donald Trump of repeatedly criticising him because of his “ethnicity” and Muslim faith, in comments likely to renew his long-running feud with the US president-elect.

– Story on p. 11

Brazil looking for motive after attempted Supreme Court bombing

Authorities in Brazil yesterday were searching for the motive of a man who apparently tried to bomb the Supreme Court, killing himself in the process.

– Story on p. 12

Outgoing govt's budget bill proposes continuation of cash handout next year

Tony Wong

The outgoing government has submitted its 2025 budget bill to the Legislative Assembly (AL), according to which it expects to run a budget surplus of 7.7 billion patacas and proposes to continue with a raft of social benefits and welfare measures including its annual cash handout for permanent and non-permanent residents.

Outgoing Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng will present his government's work summary for this year as well as its brief proposal for next year's budget to lawmakers during a plenary session in the legislature's hemicycle next Tuesday.

The government's 2025 budget bill was yesterday released on the website of the legislature, which is yet to schedule a plenary session for the debate and vote of its outline. After the passage of its outline by lawmakers, the budget bill will be reviewed by one of the legislature's standing committees before it will be resubmitted to another plenary session for its second and final debate and article-by-article vote.

Ho announced in August that for health reasons he was not seeking a second five-year term. His current five-year term will end

at midnight on December 19 when he will be succeeded by Sam Hou Fai who will then be sworn in as Macau's sixth-term and fourth chief executive on December 20, the 25th anniversary of Macau's return to the motherland.

Macau's first and second chief executive, Edmund Ho Hau Wah and Fernando Chui Sai On, both served two consecutive five-year terms, the maximum allowed under the Macau Basic Law.

Govt expects GGR of 240 billion patacas in 2024

According to the 2025 budget bill's explanatory note, which was also released on the legislature's website yesterday, the government expects Macau's gross gaming revenue (GGR) next year to reach 240 billion patacas, because of which its direct gaming tax revenue is expected to amount to 84 billion patacas, i.e., 35 percent of the GGR.

Macau's gaming operators pay 35 percent of their gross gaming receipts as direct tax to the government, apart from another five percent as levies for a wide range of public causes.

According to the 2025 budget bill, the government expects its



This file photo taken earlier this year shows a man walking past Government Headquarters on Avenida da Praia Grande in Nam Van. – Photo: Tony Wong

revenues to reach 121.09 billion patacas next year, while its expenditure next year is expected to amount to 113.38 billion patacas.

Consequently, according to the bill, the government expects to enjoy a budget surplus of 7.7 billion patacas next year.

The 2024 budget bill presented in 2023 expected the government to run a budget surplus again this year, after the government recorded a budget deficit for four consecutive years from 2020 to 2023. The COVID-19 pandemic affected Macau for three years from early 2020 through 2022, which severely

impacted the city's economy, which started its post-pandemic gradual recovery early last year.

This year's budget surplus was expected to amount to 1.17 billion patacas.

The 2025 budget bill's explanatory note says that with Macau's continuous economic recovery, the government expects next year's budgeted revenues to be higher than their counterparts this year.

The explanatory note also says that the government expects next year's number of visitor arrivals to continue rising, but Macau's tourism was expected to continue to

be affected by the ongoing changes in tourists' consumption habits and patterns.

Moreover, according to the note, the government proposes the continued implementation of its annual cash handout scheme next year.

The amount of this year's cash handout stood at 10,000 patacas for permanent residents and 6,000 patacas for non-permanent residents.

The 2025 budget bill's explanatory note does not propose how much each local resident will receive for next year's "wealth-sharing" handout.

In addition, according to the note, the government proposes to continue injecting money into the Central Provident Fund accounts of eligible permanent residents next year. The note does not mention the amount that each beneficiary will receive.

The government once again injected 7,000 patacas to the Central Provident Fund accounts of every eligible permanent resident earlier this year, after it had not paid the 7,000 patacas into eligible permanent residents' Central Provident Fund accounts since 2021 because of its deficit budgets due to the COVID-19 pandemic. ■

Govt urges 40-year-olds to start getting blood-sugar tests every 3 years

Continued from p.1

Local residents aged 16 or above can film the process in a 30- to 120-second video of them cooking one of the 20 healthy dishes selected by the bureau, and send it together with the required information to the bureau's "Vitality Health Station (活力健康站)" Facebook page.

Those who have the most likes on the first 10 cooking videos will be rewarded with a cooking appliance or supermarket gift vouchers.

Wong pointed out the three major principles in controlling diabetes mellitus, namely dietary control, regular physical activity and medication, i.e., in terms of dietary control, to eat regularly on time with a balanced intake of six major food groups (whole grains; oils, fats, nuts and seeds; legumes, fish, eggs, meat and its products; dairy products; vegetables; and fruit).

Regular physical activity refers to the practice of 30 to 50 minutes of moderate-intensity exercise, three to five times a week, to maintain a proper body weight, according to Wong, who underlined that patients should take medication or insulin injections regularly according to the doctor's prescription.

She also said that people with chronic diseases such as diabetes have to develop a concept of self-management and learn to self-monitor blood glucose, urging the patients to keep a blood glucose meter at home so that they can measure their blood glucose at any time and make timely adjustments to their diet and exercise. ■

* "Glycaemic" refers to the average concentration of glucose in the blood over time.

** "Mellitus" is Latin for "honey-sweet," describing the sweet-smelling urine of affected individuals.

Police bust currency exchange gang, involving HK\$5 million



The hooded illegal currency exchange suspects are escorted in two separate groups, one comprising four and the other two suspects, by Judiciary Police (PJ) officers to PJ vehicles outside the PJ headquarters in Zape. – Photos: Yuki Lei

Yuki Lei

In the wake of a new law criminalising illegal currency exchange dealers that took effect late last month, the Judiciary Police (PJ) on Wednesday uncovered the case of a gang exchanging gambling chips into yuan for gamblers at casinos and their adjacent facilities in Cotai, involving a total amount of about HK\$5 million.

Announcing details of the case during a special press conference yesterday, PJ spokesman Ho Wai Lok noted that the gang, consisting of four members – three males and a female aged between 28 and 37, had been operating for at least two months, with their "unlawful earnings" amounting to HK\$430,000 from more than 80 illegal currency exchange deals.

The Judiciary Police arrested the quartet at a hotel guestroom in

Cotai on Wednesday evening after receiving a report from hotel security guards through the hospitality sector-police notification mechanism, according to Ho, who noted that in the operation, PJ officers seized several mobile phones used for illicit currency exchange deals, HK\$1.45 million in cash, HK\$3,300 in casino chips, and a notebook for recording the deals' respective amounts, spreads and exchange rates.

Under questioning, the four suspects, who had entered Macau legally earlier this month from the mainland, admitted that when they came across gamblers who wanted to exchange amounts of HK\$1 million or more, they would band together to raise sufficient funds among themselves, adding that by exchanging yuan for HK\$10,000, they could earn 60 to 100 yuan each from the spread.

The four suspects, surnamed Xiong, Wu, Zeng and Xu, were transferred to the Public Prosecutions Office (MP) for further investigation yesterday, facing also organised crime charges.

2 more illegal currency exchange dealers nabbed

Meanwhile, also on Wednesday, two mainlanders were caught red-handed by PJ officers on patrol at a casino hotel in Cotai when converting yuan into a gambling chip worth HK\$50,000 for a gambler.

According to the spokesman, the Judiciary Police seized HK\$67,000 in chips and HK\$450,000 in cash from the duo aged 43 and 46.

The two suspects, surnamed Yang and Bai, were also transferred to the Public Prosecutions Office (MP) yesterday. ■

Published since Aug 2004

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- Printed by Tipografia Welfare Lda., 82-86 Rua dos Pescadores
- Wire services – AFP, Xinhua

MACAU POST

Macau Weather

MAINLY CLOUDY.
A FEW SHOWERS.
FORCE 3 TO 5 EAST TO
NORTHEASTERLY WINDS WITH
GUSTS.
RELATIVE HUMIDITY WILL
RANGE BETWEEN
75% AND 98%.



23°C~27°C

Source: SMG

MGP spectators power through rough weather: vox pop

Interview by Rui Pastorin

Dark skies and rain did not stop spectators showing up to watch yesterday's practice and qualifying races of the 71st Macau Grand Prix (MGP), which kicked off yesterday.

The first day of the four-day event saw crashes in its different races, while yesterday morning's 56th Macau Motorcycle Grand Prix free practice was cancelled* due to the wet track and bad weather conditions. Still, there was excitement among spectators yesterday.

"I think this year's Grand Prix will be a tight competition since the PREMA Team has very competitive cars", Catarina, a 14-year-old racing fan and one of the students watching the races, told the *Post* yesterday as she stood in her raincoat in the Grand Stands. "I think it will be exciting this year and everyone should visit it at least one time".

For Louisa, who talked to the *Post* standing next to Catarina, it was the first time she had attended the Macau Grand Prix in person. Having seen [racing] cars for most of her life, mostly on the telly, the 14-year-old remarked that it was "really cool to see these cars [on the circuit] for the first time...the sounds, the experience is kind of emotional for me".

Both students said they also attended yesterday's races to support Tiago Rodrigues, who studied at their school and is representing Macau in the Macau Grand Prix - FIA FR (Formula Regional) World Cup as a member of the Evans GP Team. As the rain came down harder, Louisa said that this might make the races more exciting while it was also interesting to see how the drivers react to the circuit's conditions.

Away from the pouring rain were JB and John Allen, who shared the same excitement of watching the races. The two local Filipinos in their twenties were looking forward to watching the motorbike races the most and were disappointed with yesterday's cancellation of the free practice. Allen remarked: "It is dangerous, they need to be careful as the circuit is wet. There were a lot of crashes".

JB, who was watching his second MGP up close, said that it was still an enjoyable experience in spite of the inclement weather. "I have to work on the other race days, but I am very lucky my day off matched the first day of the Grand Prix".

Students Zita and Kavia highlighted that being at the MGP, which they described as one of



Students in the Grand Stand watch the races on the first of the four-day 71st Macau Grand Prix. – Photo: Rui Pastorin

Macau's "grand events", was special. Despite the wind and rain, the 16-year-olds, who were at the MGP for the first time, said that the races were a good sight, adding that they were happy to see the competitions unfold, as well as the efforts of each racer.

Moreover, among the spectators in the Grand Stand was Russell, a New Yorker who used to race cars and is now drives pace cars, i.e., cars used in motorsports to lead the field of racing cars during caution periods or the start of a race.

Given yesterday's adverse weather conditions, he was still happy to see half of the event. "I'm having a great time so far. Saturday and Sunday need to be better".

Asked about what he was looking forward to watching the most, he said he was a big formula race fan, but also appreciates the Macau GT Cup - FIA GT World Cup.

Yesterday's first qualification race for the Grand Prix - FIA FR World Cup Qualification Race, which had five red flags in total, concluded with MP Motorsport's

Oliver Goethe from Germany taking the provisional pole position.

Meanwhile, in the second free practice of the Macau GT Cup - FIA GT World Cup, Belgium's Alessio Picariello from the Absolute Racing team had the best time, while Argentine racer Nestor Girolami from the BRC Hyundai N Squadra Corse team finished with the fastest time in the Macau Guia Race - Kumho FIA TCR World Tour Event second free practice session.

TOYOTA GAZOO Racing China Team's Han Lichao had the best time in the Greater Bay Area GT Cup (GT4) practice session and in the Macau Roadsport Challenge practice session, local racer Lei Kit Meng had the best time. Moreover, the Macau Roadsport - Macao SAR Establishment Cup's practice session ended with Hongkonger Jactin Chung Ho-hin from Team Endless with the quickest time.

As of 11 p.m. last night, all tropical cyclone signals were lowered, according to the local weather bureau. ■

*According to a statement from the Macau Grand Prix Committee (MGPOC) yesterday, *Qualifying 1 will become Free Practice, while Qualifying 2 will become single Qualifying Session. Timings will remain the same.*

Tap Siac Craft Market kicks off

Ginnie Liang

The Tap Siac Craft Autumn Market kicked off yesterday at 6 p.m. in Praça do Tap Seac, and will be held on two weekends, from yesterday to Sunday, and from November 21 to 24.

"Tap Siac" is the bureau's alternate spelling of "Tap Seac".

This year's event will feature over 220 handicraft and creative gastronomy stalls, 64 creative handicraft workshops and a total of 47 music performances.

Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) Acting President Cheang Kai Meng said during yesterday's opening ceremony that the event has developed from a unique cultural and creative market to a cultural and creative development project in the Greater Bay Area (GBA).

Cheang also said that in recent years, the bureau has been

actively organising local cultural and creative entities to organise bazaars in the GBA, with a view of turning the craft market into a branded cultural and creative fair in the GBA, adding that this year the market has already visited Hengqin and Guangzhou, while next month it will visit Shenzhen for the first time to promote Macau's unique cultural and creative products, so as to promote the development of the cultural and creative industries in Macau and Hong Kong.

In addition, anyone who spends a designated amount of money at the craft market and presents the designated receipt issued by the on-site booths can redeem it for a limited gift from the market, while stocks last.

For more information, one can visit the event's website at <https://www.craftmarket.gov.mo>. ■



Hong Kong singer Kiri.T performs during the opening ceremony of the Tap Siac Craft Market yesterday in Praça do Tap Seac. – Photo: Ginnie Liang

Poly MGM Museum hopes visitors can learn more about Macau's cultural connotations: Pansy Ho

Ginnie Liang

MGM China Holdings Limited Chairperson & Executive Director Pansy Ho Chiu King said yesterday she hoped that cooperation with Poly Culture and MGM to present the Poly MGM Museum will enable more visitors to Macau to learn more about the special administrative region's cultural connotations.

Ho made the remarks during a group interview at the press conference at MGM MACAU in Nape yesterday, on the eve of the opening of the museum today.

Ho said that as one of Macau's important economic sectors, the tourism and leisure industry should consider how to upgrade and transform itself and develop more innovative cultural and tourism products in the new era.

Ho pointed out that Beijing-based Poly Culture Group Corporation Limited has organised a number of shows and exhibitions, which have been shown to help extend tourists' length of stay in Macau, adding she hoped that in the future, Macau can continue to develop the role, potential and advantages of its unique "One Centre, One Platform, One Base" development concept, especially in cooperating with the Greater Bay Area (GBA), and strive for more high-quality MICE exhibitions to be held in Macau.



MGM China Holdings Limited Chairperson & Executive Director Pansy Ho Chiu King poses during yesterday's press conference held at MGM MACAU in Nape. – Photo: Ginnie Liang

Ho said that in the year of the "Double Celebration" of the 75th anniversary of the establishment of the People's Republic of China (PRC) and 25th anniversary of Macau's return to the motherland, this joint effort to build an international integrated arts and culture hub with Silk Road culture as the core will result in

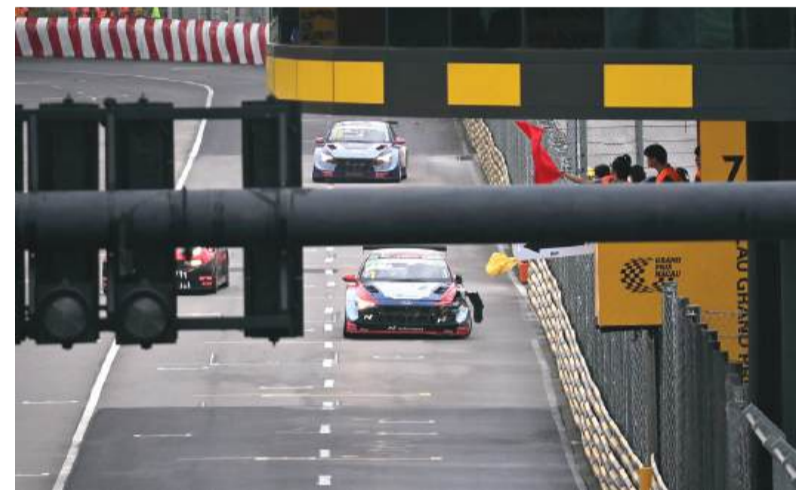
the display of many exhibits in the museum combining cultural content and technology.

Ho also said she hoped that the museum will become a brand event in Macau, curating exhibitions around different themes every year, so as to attract more visitors to Macau, especially from overseas. ■



71st Macau Grand Prix Kicks off despite wet weather

Photos taken yesterday by Rui Pastorin



At least 9 males infected with HIV in Jan-Sept: Health Bureau

Yuki Lei

In the first three quarters of this year, nine locals, all males, informed the Health Bureau (SSM) about their HIV infection, with eight of them having been infected via homosexual or bisexual contact, while one of the patients' infection route is unknown.

According to an SSM statement yesterday, all the cases have been referred to the public Conde de São Januário Hospital Centre for follow-up treatment.

The Commission on HIV Infection and AIDS, consisting of the Health Bureau, Social Welfare Bureau (IAS) and the Education and Youth Development Bureau (DSEDJ), among other public entities, held their annual meeting on Wednesday, during which SSM Director Alvis Lo Iek Long underlined that "the HIV prevalence in Macau remains a low-level epidemic", quoting the "Blueprint for a Healthy Macau" as underlining the government's specific objective of "ending the HIV epidemic" in Macau by 2030.



Health Bureau (SSM) Director Alvis Lo Iek Long (centre) chairs the annual 2024 meeting of the Commission on HIV Infection and AIDS.

— Photo and caption by the Health Bureau

In terms of harm reduction and disease prevention for injecting drug abusers who are at high risk of HIV transmission, according to the statement, 91 of them received methadone treatment in the first nine months of this year, with an attendance rate of 91 percent.

In order to encourage residents

to get tested for HIV, the statement noted that the Health Bureau will continue its "HIV Self-testing Programme" and the ongoing "Free HIV Rapid Test Service".

According to the statement, the three bureaux also briefed the meeting on their respective awareness-raising campaigns. ■

284 hillside slopes pose safety risks: govt

Tony Wong

A total of 284 hillside slopes were classified as posing safety risks to the public as of the end of last month, five more than at the end of last year, the Public Works Bureau (DSOP) said in a statement on Wednesday.

However, according to the statement, no slope was classified as posing a high safety risk at the end of last month, while there was one at the end of last year.

The government divides the city's slopes into three categories in terms of their safety risk, namely low, medium and high risk.

At the end of last month, according to Wednesday's statement, 204 slopes were classified as posing a low safety risk, while 80 were classified as

posing a medium risk. No slope was classified as posing a high risk. ■



This undated handout photo released by the Public Works Bureau (DSOP) on Wednesday shows its ongoing project to consolidate a hillside slope next to the Macau Public Security Forces Academy (ESFSM) in Coloane.

Autonomy serves Australia's interests best

China Daily Editorial

This is a time of unprecedented geopolitical complexity and uncertainty, fresh after the incumbent US administration tried so hard to revive traditional alliances and partnerships. But recalibrating bilateral relations in light of a retrogressive US foreign policy and repositioning themselves on the global stage relative to the US' anticipated policy reversals will be an inevitable balancing act for every US ally and partner.

This certainly will not be an easy one, especially when it comes to a choice between China and the US trade wise, which appears likely considering the hawkish look of the list of the US president-elect's potential picks for his Cabinet.

Australia, however, might offer some useful reference for those struggling to strike such a balance.

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese told the Australian Broadcasting Corporation in a Wednesday interview that he told US president-elect Donald Trump in a latest phone call that it is in Washington's interest to "trade fairly" with its allies, and that "it's in Australia's interest to engage with China as our major source of trade".

In another interview with the media on Oct 29, the Australian leader said: "The relationship with China is obviously important for Australia, they're our major trading partner, something like one in four of our export dollars, comes from China." But, as he acknowledged, so too is the relationship with the United States, which is Australia's largest two-way investment partner.

Australia's ties with China deteriorated when the previous Australian government fell under Washington's anti-China spell. But Canberra has woken up to the significance of those ties under the Albanese government and set out repairing them.

The strategic autonomy the Albanese government has displayed has proved that those ties are in both parties' interests. It is also evident that economic ties with China and the US do not have to be mutually exclusive.

China and Australia are both Asia-Pacific countries and important members of the G20, with no historical grievances or fundamental conflicts of interest, but every reason to be partners of mutual trust and mutual achievement. And the two sides need to keep to the right direction of bilateral relations amid the profound changes in the world.

China and Australia should follow the trend of the times, proceed from the common interests of the two countries, pursue a bilateral relationship that features treating each other on an equal footing, seeking common ground while shelving differences and mutually beneficial cooperation, and push forward the China-Australia comprehensive strategic partnership. This serves the common interests of the two countries and peoples, meets the common expectations of countries in the region, and helps the international community better respond to the risks and challenges.

A "small yard, high fence", "decoupling and severing industrial and supply chains" and "de-risking" are essentially protectionism, which runs counter to the laws of the market, the laws of scientific and technological development, and the trend of human society.

China pursues a win-win strategy of opening-up and a new development pattern with the aim of achieving national rejuvenation through a Chinese path to modernization, which will bring unprecedented opportunities to Australia and other countries. China and Australia should therefore enhance mutual understanding and trust to promote common development through mutually beneficial cooperation.

In the Asia-Pacific region, China does not engage in exclusive cliques, bloc politics, or camp confrontation. Small cliques can neither solve the major challenges facing the world nor adapt to the drastic changes in today's world. So all regional countries should be vigilant against and oppose those attempts to throw the region into chaos.

— Courtesy of China Daily

2024-2025 seasonal flu jabs for all from Monday

Ginnie Liang

Starting Monday, residents can get their annual influenza vaccination free of charge at local health centres or health stations, the Health Bureau (SSM) announced in a statement yesterday.

According to the statement, the 2024-2025 Influenza Vaccination Programme has completed vaccinating more than 109,00 people at high risk of influenza between September 23 to Wednesday. In order to further expand the immunity

barrier for the community, the bureau will provide the existing influenza vaccine for free to all residents, until the vaccine is finished.

For those who are high-risk and their companions, they can get the jabs without prior appointment, the statement said, adding that for residents who are non-high-risk, they should make an appointment through the bureau's online system at <https://www.ssm.gov.mo/infirs>, or call the city's health centres for appointment from Monday.

According to the statement, the 2024-2025 seasonal influenza vaccination campaign covers local residents aged between six months and under 18 years old, persons aged 50 or above, pregnant and breastfeeding women, those suffering from chronic diseases, obese persons with a body mass index (BMI) of 25 or above, persons working in casinos and those in urgent need to travel outside Macau, as well as local and non-local residents who are students and staff of nurseries, kindergartens, primary schools, secondary schools, tertiary education institutions, service users and staff of residential care homes, all healthcare workers and other personnel deemed necessary by the bureau to be vaccinated, such as those working in the public sector.

The majority of severe influenza illnesses and deaths in Macau are among elderly people who have not been vaccinated against the flu, particularly those with chronic illnesses, the bureau said, urging all eligible persons, in particular high-risk individuals, to get the new season's influenza vaccination as early as possible to protect their health, regardless of whether they had last season's influenza vaccination or not. ■

長者三寶

三寶名稱	流感疫苗	肺炎鏈球菌疫苗	新冠疫苗
接種建議	須每年接種	接種15價 (PCV15) 及 23價 (PPSV23) 疫苗 倘已接種13價的人士，不需再接種15價，只需在1年後接種23價。	完成最新建議的 mRNA 疫苗接種
間隔	上述三類疫苗可以同一天接種，或間隔任何時間接種		

This poster provided by the Health Bureau (SSM) yesterday recommends the flu, PCV and novel coronavirus vaccinations that senior citizens should get.

STOCK MARKETS

Hang Seng Index closes 1.96 pct lower

HONG KONG — Hong Kong's stock market ended lower yesterday with the benchmark Hang Seng Index down 1.96 percent to close at 19,435.81 points.

The Hang Seng China Enterprises Index fell 2.21 percent to end at 6,973.08 points, while the Hang Seng Tech Index dipped 3.08 percent to end at 4,318.32 points.

For the first time yesterday, the Hong Kong stock exchange kept its markets open when a No. 8 typhoon signal was hoisted.

— Xinhua