

社評

雙語道

# 外傭染疫敲警號 應擴強檢增禁聚

Quarantine measures should tighten as alarm sounded over infected foreign domestic worker

原文

本港有外傭確診感染變種新冠病毒，政府強制全港約37萬名外傭5月9日前強制檢測，並計劃規定外傭辦理續約或來港簽證時，必須接種新冠疫苗。政府措施是針對性地對外傭做排查，但防疫工作必須做得徹底，強檢應配合暫時的「禁聚令」，才能防止一邊檢測一邊交叉感染。同時有必要將強檢範圍擴大至外傭僱主，才能完全切斷社區隱形傳播鏈，確保本港控疫成果不會付諸東流。

該名外傭4月29日被發現初步確診後，政府當晚隨即圍封東涌映灣園悅濤軒第11座，約950名居民接受檢測，無發現確診個案，而全幢大廈400多戶約1,600人通宵撤離至檢疫中心隔離21日。5月1日又宣布連串對外傭的強檢和接種措施，行動迅速。

外傭一向是感染和傳播新冠病毒的高風險群組，因為一方面變種病毒潛伏期長，部分外傭帶病毒來港，隔離期有可能「走漏」；另一方面是外傭有周末聚集的習慣，容易將病毒廣泛傳播並帶給僱主家庭。今次被發現染有變種病毒的菲傭，就把病毒傳染給了其照顧的10個月大女嬰。因此政府連串針對外傭的措施是有的放矢。

過往做社區檢測的時候，專家就強調，強檢應該配合「禁足令」才能有效。本次實施外傭強檢也應

該配合短期的「禁聚令」同時執行，也就是由現在至5月9日強檢期結束，其間應該禁止聚集。因為如果強檢期間照常聚集，有可能造成檢測呈陰性的外傭，轉過頭來又被其他未檢測的人感染，令強檢難以達到徹底排查的成果。其實這段期間也就兩個星期日，短暫「禁聚」的兩個假日可以將來補假，卻可以令整個強檢的效果大為提升。在這段期間，警方也必須加強執法，嚴禁外傭違反「禁聚令」。

與此同時，政府專家顧問許樹昌估計，菲傭感染的變種病毒可能源於早前確診的印度裔男子，但兩人沒有去過相同地方，估計社區已經有隱形傳播鏈存在。外傭和僱主生活在同一屋簷下，如同家人一般，隱形傳播鏈很大可能已經進入僱主家庭。因此，政府有必要盡快把強檢的範圍擴展至外傭僱主及其家庭成員，才能徹底地切斷隱形傳播鏈。

本港第四波疫情好不容易才達至尾聲，全社會都不能再承受第五波疫情的衝擊，今次變種病毒殺入社區，已令疫情防控到了十分危急的時刻，未來14天十分關鍵。特區政府必須雷厲風行，採取果斷措施，爭分奪秒地與病毒傳播競賽，將第五波疫情扼殺在萌芽狀態。

（摘錄自香港《文匯報》社評 2021-5-1）



● 政府強制全港約37萬名外傭5月9日前強制檢測。 資料圖片

## Exercise

1. 疫苗護照 2. 源頭不明個案 3. 疫苗氣泡 4. 復必泰疫苗 5. 克爾來福（科興疫苗）

Answer 1. vaccine passport 2. untraceable case 3. vaccine bubble 4. Comirnaty 5. CoronaVac

譯文

The government has ordered all foreign domestic helpers in Hong Kong to undergo mandatory Covid-19 testing before 9 May, after one of them was found to be infected with mutated strains of the coronavirus. Initial plans were also revealed to have domestic helpers vaccinated first either before they can renew their contract, or before they can apply for work visas from overseas. However, these measures are targeted at screening for infected helpers only. To prevent further infection spread during this time period, social gathering bans must be put in place. At the same time, the scope for compulsory testing also needs to be extended to include the families that the domestic helpers work for, so as to break the chain of silent transmission in the community. That way, the anti-pandemic efforts of Hong Kong will not be in vain.

After the foreign domestic helper was preliminarily tested positive for Covid-19 on 29 April, the government immediately cordoned off Tower 11 of Carmel Cove at the Caribbean Coast housing estate in Tung Chung that night. About 950 residents were tested and no confirmed cases were found. Over 400 households, totalling about 1,600 people, were evacuated overnight to the quarantine centre to self-isolate for 21 days. A series of mandatory testing and vaccination measures for foreign domestic helpers were then announced on 1 May. The government's response was swift overall.

Foreign domestic helpers have always been a high-risk group for Covid-19. On the one hand, the current compulsory quarantine regime may not be enough to stop imported cases from foreign domestic helpers as the incubation period of the mutated strain is longer.

On the other hand, their habit of group gathering on weekends could increase the risk of spreading the virus to the families they work for. For instance, the helper who was found to have the mutant variant has infected her employer's 10-month-old baby. Therefore, these measures involving foreign domestic helpers are properly targeted.

Previously when large-scale community testing is being conducted, experts have already emphasised that compulsory testing should be conducted in conjunction with lockdowns if it is to be effective. The mandatory Covid-19 testing for domestic helpers should also be implemented with a temporary ban on group gatherings. In other words, gatherings among domestic helpers should be forbidden until the deadline of the mandatory testing on 9 May. This is because if they can gather as usual during the period of compulsory testing, those

who have been tested negative for Covid-19 could be infected by those who have not been tested yet, thus ruining the efforts of the screening. As the group gathering ban will just span across two Sundays during this period, the two rest days could easily be compensated in the future, but it would vastly improve the effectiveness of the entire mandatory testing. During this time, the police should also step up the enforcement of the gathering ban, so as to curb potential violations.

Meanwhile, government advisor David Hui Shu Cheong predicts that the mutant variant of the Filipino domestic helper may have originated from the Indian man who was confirmed to be infected earlier. They have not been to the same place, however, and therefore a silent transmission chain in the community might have been formed already. As foreign domestic helpers and

employers live under the same roof just like family members, the silent transmission chain is likely to have entered the employer's family. Therefore, the government must extend the scope of mandatory testing to employers of foreign domestic helpers and their family members. It should be done as soon as possible to completely break the chain of silent transmission.

Hong Kong has endured great hardships to finally see the fourth wave of the pandemic coming to an end, and the society can no longer withstand a fifth wave of the pandemic. As the mutated strain has already entered the community, the next 14 days will be very critical to Hong Kong's anti-pandemic efforts. The government must be swift and resolute in the fight against the spreading of the virus, hopefully nipping the fifth wave of the pandemic in the bud.

## 遜帝也租屋 無房不丟人

### 歷史今昔

最近聞報，香港房價又登上全球首位。若以香港家庭的中位數收入作計算，一個家庭需約20年不吃不喝，才可成功上樓。此等「首位」，筆者還是覺得愈早丟掉愈好。

不知何時開始，港人視買樓為新人結婚之前提，覺得結婚便不能繼續租房子。其實華人熱衷於買房此事，可能只是近幾十年的事情，以前的華人未必都是如此，連皇帝也只租屋不買房。

或論皇帝應居於皇宮，且擁有全國國土，何須買屋租房？筆者這裡所指的是末代皇帝溥儀。民國雖成立於1912年，但袁世凱與清廷之優待協議乃清朝皇帝可以居於紫禁城，電影《末代皇帝》就是說溥儀的一生，其前半部分就是說他在紫禁城時的點滴。袁世凱死後，中國陷入軍閥混戰階段。1924年，軍閥馮玉祥趕走溥儀，溥儀便成了「流浪遜帝」，居住地點也成了考慮之列。

溥儀選擇了天津，分別住過張彪和陸宗輿的住宅，後者更改名為「靜園」。溥儀雖是流浪皇帝，但他的私人財產和人脈，要買房絕



● 溥儀離開紫禁城後，曾在天津靜園居住一段時間。 資料圖片

對是易事，而房東亦沒因溥儀曾是皇帝而免他租金。這其實牽涉了一些華人概念。對賣家而言，如果賣房子，就等於變賣祖屋，是耗盡家產的象徵，對於賣家而言是一種恥辱。而對買家而言，華人較傾向覓地自己蓋一間新房子，兒子可以透過蓋新房建立新家，但如果是買屋，或者父母出錢買房給兒子，便有了分家產的意味，這同樣有違中國傳統文化。溥儀選擇租房而非買房，亦在情理之中。

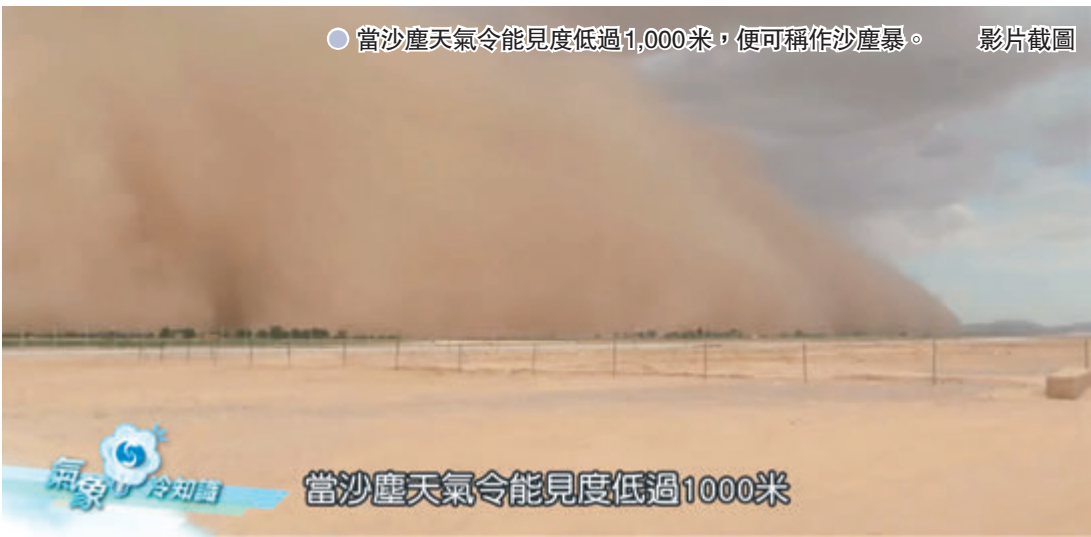
另一原因則與房屋政策有關。軍閥混戰期間，各路軍閥擁兵自重，並開始向其勢力範圍徵收繁重稅務，房產交易稅和房產持有稅便是其中之一。最高的是廣州，房產交易稅高達26%，就算買了房子也要每年繳支持

有稅。市民因高昂的稅務而對買賣房屋卻步是情有可原，溥儀當然也不想為此繳交額外稅務。

除了皇帝，一般的中產專業人士也愛租房而不買房。譬如26歲已成北京大學教授的徐志摩，雖家境富裕，但對買房也不感興趣。他29歲時與陸小曼結婚，定居於上海，既為書店老闆，又為上海光華大學教授，肯定屬中產專業人士。但他倆始終沒有在上海置業，錢都花在娛樂消費上。

租房在民國時期甚為普遍，也並不丟人，是因有錢人也未必會選擇買房，更不需為超出價格的事物埋單。若伴侶其中一方要求結婚前置業，建議你把此文給他閱讀，用知識的力量回敬之。

● 布安東（歷史系博士，興趣遊走於中西歷史文化及古典音樂。）



● 當沙塵天氣令能見度低過1,000米，便可稱作沙塵暴。 影片截圖

## 沙塵天氣

### 氣象萬千

提起天氣現象，大家或者多數會想起天晴、下雨、打風，今次跟大家介紹一種香港人可能較少見的現象，就是沙塵天氣。

在沙漠或一些土質鬆軟、乾燥、無植被或草木生長，以及沒有積雪的地方，鬆散的沙土容易被強風或湍流捲起，大量沙粒和塵粒令空氣變得混濁，能見度降低，這個就是沙塵天氣。

一般來說，當沙塵天氣令能見度低過1,000米，便可稱作沙塵暴。在東亞地區的沙塵暴，多數源於中國西部、北部，以及蒙古國的沙漠地區，在冬末至春季比較常見。

沙塵暴出現後，較重的沙粒很快會下沉到地面，在大氣中停留時間較短，但較輕的沙塵有機會在大氣停留得較久，有時候揚起的沙塵有數千米高，有機會隨高空氣流送到數千公里外，影響範圍可以相當廣闊。不過，沙塵經過長程輸送後，空氣中的沙塵濃度很多時都已降低不少，多數都失去了沙塵暴的大部分或全部特徵。

過往香港受到較顯著的沙塵天氣影響就是2010年3月，源自華北沙塵暴的沙和塵，經華中及中國東南部到達香港，當時港內能見度曾下降至3,000米以下。

香港天文台會透過氣象衛星及鄰近地區氣象中心的觀測數據，和分析氣團軌跡路線，協助監測與評估沙塵天氣會否對香港造成影響。

● 香港天文台（本欄以天文台的網上氣象節目《氣象冷知識》向讀者簡介有趣的天氣現象。詳情可瀏覽天文台YouTube專頁：<https://www.youtube.com/user/hkweather>。）



星期一

• 通識時事聚焦 / 品德學堂  
• 百搭通識

星期二

• 通識博客 / 通識中國

星期三

• 中文星級學堂  
• STEM百科啓智

星期四

• 通識文憑試摘星攻略

星期五

• 文江學海