



香港社會醫學學院
HONG KONG COLLEGE OF COMMUNITY MEDICINE
founder College of the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine
Incorporated with limited liability



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COUNCIL 2007-08

President

Dr Kathleen So
蘇碧嫻

Clerk to Bills Committee
(Attn: Ms Alice Leung)
Legislative Council Secretariat
3/F Citibank Tower

Vice-President

Dr S P Mak
麥倩屏

3 Garden Road
Central
Hong Kong

Chief Censor

Dr T H Leung
梁挺雄

28 November 2008

Dear Ms Leung,

Honorary Secretary

Dr Thomas Chung
鍾偉雄

**Bills Committee on
Public Health and Municipal Services (Amendment) Bill
Meeting on 4 December**

Honorary Treasurer

Dr S V Lo
羅思偉

The Hong Kong College of Community Medicine (the College) would like to send in a written submission on the proposed Public Health and Municipal Services (Amendment) Bill as follows.

Members

Dr Fung Hong
馮康

Dr Mandy Ho
何孟儀

Dr William Ho
何兆煒

Dr. Ronald Lam
林文健

Dr P Y Leung
梁柏賢

As a professional organisation consisting of specialist doctors working to improve the health of the community, the College supports the proposed introduction of Public Health and Municipal Services (Amendment) Bill 2008 to better protect the health of the people in Hong Kong.

We note that it is proposed to empower the Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (DFEH) to make orders administratively to prohibit the import and supply of any food and direct that any food supplied be recalled in the manner specified in the order, if DFEH has reasonable grounds to believe that the making of the order is necessary to prevent or reduce the possibility of a danger to public health or to mitigate any adverse consequence of a danger to public health. DFEH has to take into consideration various factors in deciding whether there are reasonable grounds to make the order. We also note that information including the particulars of the food, reason for making the



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order, the prohibition or action required of the traders, etc. will be clearly stated when an order is made by DFEH.

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The College considers it is necessary to empower the authority to take prompt action to protect the health of the public in a proactive and timely manner. The College is of the view that the empowerment of DFEH to make such orders as proposed in the Public Health and Municipal Services (Amendment) Bill 2008 is a reasonable step forward.

We would like to point out that the other parts of the proposed Food Safety Bill put forward by the government early this year, in particular the parts relating to mandatory registration of importer and wholesaler and requirement of record keeping should be implemented as soon as possible to tie in with the prohibition of sale and food recall so as to facilitate law enforcement.

Yours sincerely,

(Dr Thomas Chung)
Honorary Secretary
Hong Kong College of Community Medicine