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Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene

**Information note prepared by the Legislative Council Secretariat
for the meeting on 8 January 2019**

Outbreak of African Swine Fever

Since August 2018, there has been an outbreak of African Swine Fever ("ASF") in the Mainland. According to news reports (see **Appendix I**), cases of ASF have been found in 23 provinces and municipalities, resulting in the culling of more than 630 000 pigs.

2. In answering a written question raised by Hon Steven HO on nuisance caused by wild pigs at the Council meeting of 12 December 2018, the Administration advised that since the outbreak of ASF in the Mainland in August 2018, the Food and Health Bureau ("FHB") has been maintaining close liaison with relevant Mainland authorities on the latest developments, so as to prevent the spread of ASF to Hong Kong. The Administration has stepped up cleansing and disinfection in various areas including boundary checkpoints, transportation and slaughterhouses, etc. Besides, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department has been actively disseminating messages to relevant sectors and pig farmers on how to prevent ASF infection, with a view to enhancing their vigilance of this disease. The question and the Administration's reply are in **Appendix II**.

3. According to FHB, it has been maintaining close liaison with the General Administration of Customs and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs about the latest situation of the outbreak of ASF and their response actions. So far, no pig farm registered for supplying live pigs to Hong Kong is affected and the supply of live pigs from the Mainland remains generally stable.

4. On 28 December 2018, the Administration met local pig farmers and stakeholders related to the supply chain of live pigs (including slaughterhouse operators, livestock agents, buyers and meat transportation companies), explaining to them the preventive measures and contingency plans to guard against the spread of ASF to Hong Kong, the culling arrangements under different scenarios, as well as the Government's assistance to the trade and compensation for culling of pigs. Relevant press releases are in **Appendix III**.

5. Many Panel members have expressed concern over various issues including the food safety risk associated with ASF, inspection of and quarantine arrangements for live pigs supplied to Hong Kong and measures taken by the Administration for guarding ASF from spreading into local pig farms etc. The Administration has been requested to brief members of the Panel on its strategy towards prevention of ASF at the meeting on 8 January 2019.

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
4 January 2019



江蘇抗豬瘟 撲殺逾1.4萬隻豬

江蘇連雲港早前爆發國內第3宗非洲豬瘟疫情，官方稱，涉事養殖場方圓3公里已被劃分為疫區受到封鎖，疫區內逾1.4萬隻活豬已撲殺處理。專家指，疫情可能來自俄國走私豬，若病毒繼續擴散，將難以控制和根除。

國家農業農村部新聞辦公室周日（19日）公布，江蘇省連雲港市海州區發生生豬非洲豬瘟疫情，導致615頭生豬發病、88頭死亡。

涉事養殖場 方圓3公里封鎖

據連雲港市官方昨天公告及內媒報道，出事的養殖場於4月建成運營，截至疫情爆發時，未有生豬出售外運。目前，圍繞疫情發生點方圓3公里被劃分為疫區進行封鎖，方圓10公里內為威脅區，嚴查來往人員、車輛。

截至8月20日晚，疫區內的14,577頭生豬，已嚴格按照農業農村部相關技術規程全部撲殺並實施無害化處理。前日，連雲港當地對受威脅區的854家養豬場（戶）、45,800頭生豬進行全面排查、監視，暫未發現異常。此外，全市還排查其他地區養殖場逾2.5萬個，排查豬隻逾412萬頭，皆未發現異常。

相關負責人表示，養殖戶及農戶損失較大，政府初步計劃給予撲殺一頭生豬800元（人民幣，下同）的補償。

內地半個月內已先後於遼寧瀋陽、河南鄭州及江蘇連雲港發生3宗非洲豬瘟疫情，且河南案例豬隻來自黑龍江、遼寧案例豬隻來自吉林，疫情已波及5省份。據《央視》引述專家報道，由於非洲豬瘟在鄰國俄羅斯有過疫情，猜測疫情可能通過邊境非法交易傳入中國，但具體原因和途徑仍在調查中。

疫情受控 豬價影響暫有限

報道指，發生疫情後，東北、華北等地的白條豬價格出現小幅上漲，達到每公斤18元左右。報道引述分析人士表示，當前疫情小，可控性強，對整體豬肉價格影響有限。

國家生豬產業技術體系疾病防控研究室專家楊漢春則指，非洲豬瘟的傳入帶給生豬產業前所未有的挑戰，一旦非洲豬瘟病毒繼續傳播，疫情不斷擴散和蔓延，控制與根除非洲豬瘟的任務將面臨十分艱難的局面。

對於內地豬瘟對香港有否影響，香港業界表示，香港並沒有從瀋陽或黑龍江進口豬肉，而河南省的豬肉則有進口香港，但料佔本港整體豬肉供應量不足1%。



嚴防內地非洲豬瘟傳港

【本報訊】內地多地接連爆發非洲豬瘟，內蒙古日前亦有首例，雖然內地供港豬隻暫未受疫症波及，但豬價持續向上。食物及衛生局局長陳肇始在網誌稱，內地豬瘟疫情令人意識到疫病可能影響活豬供應甚至本地養豬業，該局過去兩星期已先後召開兩次跨部門會議，因應風險評估制訂一系列應對政策和措施，至目前為止，未有任何供港豬場受疫情影響。

如出現病徵 原車折返

陳肇始強調，非洲豬瘟是豬傳染病，不會傳染人類，亦不會構成食安風險，市民可放心食用煮熟的豬肉，當局亦一直就疫情與內地單位保持聯繫。據其了解，內地相關單位已加強中轉倉的清潔消毒和生物安全工作，如發現運送車輛上有豬隻在送抵中轉倉時死亡或出現疑似非洲豬瘟病徵，所有豬隻必須原車折返。

陳續指，本港活豬供應逾九成來自內地認可供港註冊養殖場，由於非洲豬瘟可在短時間傳染給其他豬隻並造成豬隻死亡，政府各部門已及早戒備，首要目的是防範非洲豬瘟傳入本港，食環署已加強清潔消毒屠房，包括進出的運豬車、存豬欄及屠宰線等。漁護署亦已發信和舉辦座談會，提醒本地養豬場提高防範意識，做好疫病預防工作，該署並會加強巡查，確保防疫措施妥善實施。



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陳肇始：內地非洲豬瘟受控

【香港商報訊】記者馮仁樂報道：正在北京訪問的食物及衛生局局長陳肇始昨日表示，分別與海關總署（總署）署長倪岳峰和農業農村部副部長于康震會面，並藉此機會了解內地非洲豬瘟疫情的最新情況。

陳肇始表示，特區政府十分關注和留意內地非洲豬瘟疫情，並一直就疫情和應對工作與總署和農業農村部保持緊密聯繫。至目前為止，並無任何供港註冊養殖場（供港場）受到影響，而內地活豬供應數量亦大致保持穩定。

她表示，總署和農業農村部在過去2 個多月，一直致力做好源頭管理和監控，而且在保障香港活豬穩定供應方面做了大量工作；特別是上周宣布有關供港活豬運輸期間檢疫監管工作的多項措施，確保了供港活豬由海關部門嚴格實施檢疫監管。

她又說，儘管非洲豬瘟並不涉及食物安全的問題，為防範病毒感染本地豬隻，特區政府已加強各個環節，包括養豬場、屠房和口岸的生物安全工作。

簽訂燕窩產品輸入內地協議

除了非洲豬瘟的疫情外，陳肇始亦與倪岳峰談及其他有關食物安全和供應的議題，並與總署辦公廳主任張廣志簽訂有關燕窩產品輸入內地的協議。去年12月，雙方草簽了關於從香港輸出燕窩產品到內地的檢驗檢疫安排；陳肇始說，今次正式簽署有關協議，促進兩地燕窩貿易一路向前。她又指，此行還討論了香港漁民如何在粵港澳大灣區擴大養殖水域。



陳肇始：供港豬非自內地豬瘟豬場

【明報專訊】內地非洲豬瘟升溫，食物及衛生局長陳肇始昨日表示，留意到內地近20 個省出現非洲豬瘟，指本港沒出現任何感染個案，又稱現時內地供港活豬並非來自問題豬場。

陳肇始說，政府一直密切監察，與內地相關單位密切溝通，即使非洲豬瘟不會傳人，不會構成食物安全風險，但也不想疫情傳入本地農場，因活豬一旦被傳染，很快會死亡。她表示，現已在入口、運輸、屠房等所有方面加強消毒和清洗，農場亦已停用由動物製造的飼料。

另外，對於三大公立醫院X 光片漏診，陳肇始稱醫院管理局和食衛局都非常注重病人安全和服務質素，醫管局已組織了一個委員會，分析該3 宗個案，以及最重要的是從基本檢視發生何事，檢討如何改善機制，令醫護人員更有效地檢視X 光片。



頭條日報 | 發引量 / 接觸人次: 814,741 | 2018-12-07
報章 | P08 | 港聞
字數統計: 284字 | 圖片頁數: 1/1 |

漁護署演習應付豬瘟用毛公仔練習殺豬

內地爆發非洲豬瘟疫，令港人憂心忡忡，食物及衛生局及其轄下漁護署亦嚴陣以待，局長陳肇始表示香港暫未有任何個案，內地供港的豬隻也並非來自有問題的豬場。局長又表示，當局一直密切監察，並向內地對口單位了解疫情，已加強消毒本地農場及屠場等。

漁護署日前還舉行演習，在其位於打鼓嶺的行動中心，出動大量粉紅色豬豬毛公仔練習殺豬，陳局長亦有在社交網分享，稱萬一本本地出現非洲豬瘟疫情，政府會果斷應對。至於演習行動——豬隻銷毀，只見大量粉紅色豬豬毛公仔企定定，由身穿保護衣的演習人員逐一抱起，抱入貨櫃準備「銷毀」。每隻毛毛公仔樣子笨笨胖胖非常可愛，淘寶有售，賣三百二十八元港幣一隻。



明報 | 發行人: 梁國治 | 140,000 | 2018-12-21

報章 | A06 | 港聞

港豬瘟對策比內地寬鬆 無發病豬牛羊照賣 屠房爆疫不盡殺 豬農憂病毒傳農場

【明報專訊】內地非洲豬瘟波及23省，最新傳入珠海，進一步逼近香港。食物及衛生局昨召開跨部門會議，為萬一本港爆疫準備應對方案，若屠房現病豬，政府計劃撲殺涉事豬場的豬，其餘同在屠房內的豬、牛、羊會照常出售；若豬場爆疫則會盡殺場內豬，但3公里範圍內其他無爆疫的豬場不會即殺豬，較內地寬鬆。有豬農及專家擔心屠房爆疫不盡殺豬，可能會讓未病發的豬流入街市，病毒隨時會再經人的鞋底及器具等傳入農場，質疑政府不理本地農場。

中港豬暫無分流方案 兩屠房同爆恐斷供應

本港43個養豬場約有5萬隻豬，佔全港供應5%。政府認為分開屠宰中港活豬有助預防疫情傳入，惟上水屠房由食環署委託承辦商管理，荃灣屠房由私人營運，部門多次與業界溝通仍未有明確方案。萬一兩個屠房同爆疫，將關閉消毒，可能令活豬供應中斷。

豬場爆疫殺場內豬 不涉鄰近豬場

內地非洲豬瘟殺豬措施較香港嚴格，爆疫的豬場或屠場會撲殺涉事場所及3公里範圍內的豬，13公里範圍內豬場則暫停供應。本港方面，食物安全中心指若屠房現疫情，會撲殺受感染的豬，其他沒受感染牲畜因不涉食物安全，會屠宰及售賣，屠房其後會做數天清潔；如本地豬場爆疫，則只殺涉事豬場的豬，3公里範圍內的其他豬場不受影響。非洲豬瘟可經廚餘傳播，本地下月中起禁止用廚餘餵豬。

業界批不能接受 倡荃灣只宰本地豬

對於屠房爆疫不盡殺場內牲畜，香港農業聯合會主席陳建業說不能接受，「這樣做即不理香港豬農，全世界都不會這樣做，有病豬即屠房已受污染，病毒會隨出場的豬傳到街市，再經人類鞋底等傳入本地農場」。城大動物醫學及生命科學院動物福利中心總監王啓熙指政府要多加考慮，「這種病毒適應力強，例如在酷熱環境下都可生存，我們不希望那些病毒能隨豬隻潛伏（7日）期間離開屠場」。他又稱最治本方法是停止內地活豬及製品進口，建議政府教育公眾勿帶豬肉入境。

另外，政府正研究分流中港豬，陳建業指出，荃灣及上水屠房都同時有兩地豬，兩地豬拍賣後會同放待宰欄，「最理想當然分開，但同一屠房沒空間，分流兩屠房較好」。他說荃灣屠房每日可宰400頭豬，可應付每日上市的300頭本地豬，而4000頭內地豬則可留在上水，此舉會增加買手兩邊走的運輸成本，但為防疫仍值得。

何栢良：非洲豬瘟不涉食安風險

港府暫不仿效台灣禁止豬肉製品入口。港大感染及傳染病中心總監何栢良表示，正常途徑買賣的豬肉已受監控，但不排除市民私下帶生豬肉入境而傳入病毒。台灣禁疫區豬肉製品進口，何指內地疫情由北傳至南，相信是人流、物流及器具交叉污染，其風險大過臘腸及肉乾等製品，非洲豬瘟本不存在食物安全風險，有些國家重視農業，如澳、紐，嚴防不傳人的傳染病只為保護農業，每個地方均要自行評估當地可承受風險。

香港應對非洲豬瘟措施

檢疫措施

- 食環署人員在邊境管制站檢查每批入口豬的動物衛生證書及健康狀況
- 所有入口和本地活豬在屠房需經宰前和宰後檢驗檢疫，方可供應市場
- 如發現豬出現疑似病徵，會立即做快速測試



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屠房及豬場預防措施

- 加強運輸車輛、屠房、豬場清潔及消毒
- 曾到屠房的車輛，徹底清洗才運其他批次的豬
- 2019 年1 月12 日起禁止豬場使用廚餘餵豬

進口措施

- 暫停內地種豬進口香港
- 食環署與海關加強合作，打擊攜帶新鮮豬肉入境

撲殺措施

- 如屠房出現疫情，會撲殺受感染豬農場的豬；其餘屠房內沒受感染的豬、牛、羊會照常屠宰售賣，其後數天會消毒
- 如豬場出現疫情，會暫停涉事豬場及3 公里範圍內豬場的供應，直至檢驗結果呈陰性；若呈陽性，會撲殺涉事豬場所有豬，並封閉約一個月以消毒，其他3 公里範圍內豬場的豬不會即撲殺

資料來源：食物及衛生局、食物安全中心及漁農自然護理署

什麼是非洲豬瘟？

感染對象：

家豬及野豬，不會傳人

資料來源：台灣農業委員會動植物防疫檢疫局、港大感染及傳染病中心總監何栢良

食用風險：一般病死豬不應供人食用，病豬屍體易變壞，若經不當途徑供人食用，處理肉類的環境不潔，豬肉有可能帶有其他大腸桿菌或沙門氏菌等病菌而致病

豬隻感染病徵：發高熱及皮膚呈紫斑點，內臟出血，急性病情會發高燒、死前無食慾、呼吸快、精神不良、嘔吐等，死亡率可達100%。現無治療非洲豬瘟的藥物或疫苗

傳播地區：非洲、歐洲、中國

病毒存活時間：冷凍豬肉可存活1000 日，豬舍可存活30 日，糞便可存活11 日

傳播途徑：廚餘、豬的分泌物及排泄物、車輛、器具及人員交叉污染、肉類製品



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豬農不合作運動 爭停入內地疫省豬 稱因不滿港防控寬鬆 議員質疑是否為利益

【明報專訊】內地非洲豬瘟來勢洶洶，港府正制訂應變方案，萬一在港爆疫會殺豬，據了解，最新計劃會按市價賠償，料每隻200斤大豬可賠2000多元。不過，業界不滿港府的殺豬範圍，即屠房爆疫不會盡殺場內豬，香港農業聯合會主席陳建業批評此舉犧牲本地豬農，號召全港43個豬場參與「不合作運動」，拒登記藥物及豬數等，藉此要求禁止內地爆疫省份的豬供港。有立法會議員認為業界應解釋訴求有否牽涉利益，倘禁內地豬會推高豬價，市民會有意見。

在港府部署下，若本港屠房現非洲豬瘟，會撲殺病發豬場的豬；若豬場爆疫，只銷毀涉事豬場的豬，安排較內地寬鬆。陳建業昨稱，業界昨商討後認為政府做法犧牲本地豬農，正發起「不合作運動」，包括不向漁護署登記豬場所用藥物、豬數量等資料，預料未來一兩天會通知所有豬農響應行動。

倡屠場見豬瘟盡殺

陳指業界要求撲殺爆疫屠房所有豬、禁止爆疫省份的豬供港，以及封鎖本地受感染農場方圓3公里範圍，直至確認豬沒感染才可賣。他認為政府應先回應上述訴求，殺豬賠償金額則「下回分解」。英明農場場主尹偉明昨稱會跟隨業界行動，他不滿政府沒做好防控，尤其沒禁內地活豬及豬類製品進口，「連冰鮮豬都可以傳染病毒」。

議員：禁疫省豬會推高豬價

漁護署長梁肇輝昨出席公開活動，被問殺豬做法不及內地，是否輕視疫情，他回應指本港養豬規模較小，會按風險作相應決定，獸醫會檢驗屠房內沒受感染的豬，做法已諮詢本地、內地及海外專家，看不到有原因要殺所有豬；若農場生物保安做得好，可減低豬感染風險。

民主黨立法會議員黃碧雲認為豬農應解釋清楚行動理據及有否利益考慮等。她指內地至少23個省市現疫情，若禁爆疫省份的豬供應，香港變相沒內地活豬，會推高豬價，市民會「有意見」，暫不是時候走到這一步。她補充，本港應分隔中港活豬，並抽驗內地冰鮮豬及豬肉製品等。

殺豬原每隻賠300 擬賠2000

禽畜業聯會會長譚國柱昨在港台《千禧年代》稱，盼政府有明確的豬場殺豬賠償安排。據了解，政府準備按市價賠償，以兩擔（200斤）重的大豬為例，可賠2000多元，種豬料賠數千至1萬元，細豬或賠數百元。現法定賠償為每隻豬300元，政府料以特惠金形式發放賠償，以補法定賠償差額。

學者：賠不夠或致豬農瞞報

城市大學動物醫學及生命科學院副院長Dirk Pfeiffer研究非洲豬瘟達13年，他說該症只在豬間傳播，未現變異致跨物種感染。他提醒港府應預防野豬受感染，並提供足夠賠償避免豬農瞞報。他形容港府作殺豬決策是「政治遊戲」，需考慮本港可承受的風險，視乎疫情傳播、活豬供應及價格等作平衡，避免大量豬無辜被殺。



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報章 | EDT5 | EDT | health | By Zhou Xinzhou.xin@scmp.com

Swine Flu outbreaks closer to Hong Kong

Latest cases reported at a farm on the outskirts of Guangzhou, prompting the slaughter of thousands of pigs and the area being sealed off

The agriculture ministry yesterday reported a new outbreak of African swine fever at a pig farm in the outskirts of Guangzhou, bringing the virus closer to the border with Hong Kong.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs said a pig farm in Huangpu was found to have 30 infected pigs. Nine had died by Saturday evening.

As a response, the local authorities have sealed off the area and slaughtered 6,027 pigs.

The outbreak in Guangzhou was reported after a pig farm in nearby Zhuhai reported the virus and the local authority had slaughtered 1,598 pigs.

Both Zhuhai and Guangzhou are in the Pearl River Delta and pigs from the area are exported to Hong Kong.

The agriculture ministry did not name the pig farm in Guangzhou. However, according to a list of suppliers on a government website, there are no farms in Huangpu that directly supply hogs or pork to the city.

There have been at least 92 outbreaks of African swine fever on the mainland pig farms since the virus was first detected in the province of Liaoning in early August.

Cases of virus had been reported in 23 provinces or regions, resulting in more than 630,000 pigs having to be destroyed, according to the China News Service, a state news agency.

The source of the Chinese swine fever outbreak is still unknown, but one popular explanation is that the virus may have entered the country via frozen pork from Russia, after China started to buy pork from its northern neighbour after it reduced purchases of pork from the United States due to the trade war. This has never been substantiated.

African swine fever can be spread by live or dead pigs, as well as pork products. There is no approved vaccine against the disease.

The spread of the virus has disrupted farming and made it harder to transport pigs across the mainland, resulting in wildly different pork prices across different provinces. According to pork industry website zhuwang.cc, the average hog price in the eastern province of Zhejiang was 60 per cent higher than in neighbouring Shanghai.

Hog prices in the southwestern province of Sichuan, where pork consumption is heavy, are almost double the prices in the northeastern provinces of Liaoning, Jilin and Heilongjiang.

There are no recorded cases of the virus affecting humans, but the authorities in Hong Kong are on the alert



nonetheless.

Earlier this month, Hong Kong officials conducted a culling drill in the event of African swine fever spreading across the border.

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department said the successful drill was to strengthen the preparedness of its officers in case of an outbreak on local farms.



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食環署否認廣東省全面停止供港 若屠房成疫點擬盡殺活豬

非洲豬瘟疫情持續，令本月內供港活豬數量出現較大波幅，由高至每日有4,800多隻，到近期只有1,800多隻，相距高達2,000隻，對於近日業界傳出，由於內地實行「跨市禁運」的措施，廣東省有機會短期內全面暫停活豬供港，但食環署昨日回應稱廣東省並不是全面停止活豬供港。對於在處理一旦供港活豬在上水屠房染病的爭議，業界今日（28日）與將會晤漁農自然護理署，據了解，目前已傾向若然發現屠房的病豬已混入豬欄，屠房可能成為疫點，當局擬盡殺屠房內的全部豬隻。

本報港聞部報道

內地海關總署本月26日更新內地供港澳活豬養殖場名單顯示，廣東省有17個豬場暫停供港活豬，當中有7間來自惠州、4間來自河源、3間位於珠海、2間位於中山，1間位於廣州。而本港昨日由內地供港的活豬數字為2,724隻，本地則有185隻，合共2,909隻，今日（28日）則有3,600內地活豬來港。廣東省現行政策是，如有兩個或以上的地級市爆發非洲豬瘟，就要禁止在省內跨市調運生豬。現時所有供港的豬隻都需先運去深圳清水河的供港活畜中轉倉，因此「跨市禁運」或會令廣東省活豬無法供港。

廣東省政策「跨市禁運」

就廣東省或有可能在短期內全面暫停供應活豬來港的說法，食環署回覆表示，根據國家海關總署資料，現時並無註冊供港活豬養殖場受非洲豬瘟感染，而基於防控疫病需要，出現個案和位處或鄰近疫區的供港養殖場將須暫停供港。廣東省並不是全面停止活豬供港。另內地活豬供應數量十分透明，食物環境衛生署每天均在網頁公布當天活豬供應數字及翌日活豬預計供應預計數字，讓市民知悉。

本報綜合業界人士及立法議員何俊賢的意見，他們暫未聽聞有關說法，何俊賢回覆《成報》表示，內地部門高度重視豬瘟疫情，又指出內地或因應豬瘟情況，不排除有機會有停止內地活豬供港情況，但現時則未有聽聞有此安排。但指出如缺少內地方面供豬，對市場有影響，因本港豬隻數量不能應付市場需求。

他表示政府與內地相信是有進行溝通，但不滿政府未有抽檢從非洲豬瘟疫區進口的豬肉製品，以及在社會大眾的防疫意識宣傳方面做得不足，而業界今日會與將漁農自然護理署開會，據了解，如病豬未進入豬欄時，則可局部只滅殺該批病豬，但如果已混入豬欄，則會全數殺滅屠房內的豬隻。

1.5萬人生計恐受影響

何俊賢指出，本地豬場一旦有豬隻受感染，保守估計會有1.2至1.5萬人的生計受到影響。他批評政府在宣傳教育上做得不足，呼籲市民應小心處理廚餘，如果有來自非洲豬瘟病毒生產的豬肉製品，更要小心以膠袋包好處理，以免有流動動物食用後，將病毒傳染至社區。

他促請政府應做好「日日清」工作，因為聽聞上水屠房不是每日都屠宰所有活豬，一些豬隻會逗留在屠房內一至兩日。他認為豬隻逗留過夜易生病，如上水屠房爆發疫情，屆時將影響本港無活豬供應，認為應每天將所有豬隻屠殺完畢，以便有時間在屠場進行消毒工作。據了解，食環署正研究加密清潔消毒，例如考慮每分批為活豬消毒，但具體程序仍有待研究。

Press Releases

LCQ14: Nuisance caused by wild pigs

Following is a question by the Hon Steven Ho and a written reply by the Secretary for the Environment, Mr Wong Kam-sing, in the Legislative Council today (December 12):

Question:

Cases of wild pigs appearing in country parks, farms and urban areas have been heard from time to time in recent years. Some members of the public have pointed out that wild pigs eat and damage crops as well as tip over rubbish bins, thereby jeopardising environmental hygiene and posing threats to the personal safety of the public. Given the outbreak of African swine fever (ASF) in recent months on the Mainland, they are worried about wild pigs spreading ASF to the pigs in pig farms. On the other hand, the Government launched in October last year a two-year Pilot Study on the Contraception and Relocation of Wild Pigs (Pilot Study). As at September this year, the Government conducted 30 operations under the Pilot Study and captured 101 wild pigs, among which 33 female wild pigs were administered with contraceptive vaccine and six wild pigs received permanent surgical sterilisation. The Government also relocated another 72 captured wild pigs to the countryside far away from residential areas. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council:

(1) whether it will consider conducting an assessment of the number of wild pigs and the number of wild pig herds across the territory as well as their fertility trend; if so, of the details; if not, the reasons for that;

(2) of the estimated expenditure of and the manpower needed for the Pilot Study; the locations to which the aforesaid 72 wild pigs were relocated and the location selection criteria (whether they include distance from farms); whether it has reviewed if the number of operations was on the low side; whether it will increase the number of operations and review the effectiveness of the Pilot Study; if it will review, when the outcome will be published; if not, of the reasons for that;

(3) given that the Government has commissioned a local university to examine and improve the design of refuse collection facilities to prevent wildlife animals from foraging food from refuse, of the progress of such work, and whether the relevant design will be adopted for the refuse collection facilities situated in the vicinity of residential areas, country parks and farms;

(4) as the Government has advised that it will conduct public education to remind members of the public not to feed wild pigs, of the details of such work;

(5) as the Government has advised that infrared cameras will be used to take photos of feeding activities once environmental hygiene problem has been found to have been caused by the feeding of wild pigs, and the photos taken will be referred to the relevant departments for follow-up actions, how the relevant departments follow up those referrals; in respect of the aforesaid work undertaken by the Government in the past three years, of the manpower deployed, the number of prosecutions instituted, the penalties generally imposed and the maximum penalty imposed on the convicted persons, as well as the number of cases involving repeated offenders;

(6) of the Government's suggestions for farmers about how to

protect their personal safety when wild pigs intrude into farms;
and

(7) whether it has assessed the risk of wild pigs spreading ASF to pigs in local pig farms; whether it will (i) implement measures and provide financial assistance to help pig farm operators guard against ASF, and (ii) formulate a contingency mechanism to deal with the situation of massive deaths of wild pigs; if so, of the details; if not, the reasons for that?

Reply:

President,

The Government is very concerned about the nuisance and potential hazards caused by wild pigs to the public. We are reviewing our existing practices in handling wild pigs and will submit in due course a paper to the panel concerned of the Legislative Council for discussion.

In consultation with the Food and Health Bureau (FHB), our reply to the question raised by the Hon Steven Ho is as follows:

(1) Wild pigs mainly appeared in rural areas of the New Territories in the past, yet surveys conducted by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) have revealed that they now scatter across the whole territory, including the northern part of the New Territories, Sai Kung and Hong Kong Island. As wild pigs normally appear individually or in small groups, making covert movements in their widespread and vast habitats, it is technically difficult to compile statistics on the overall number of wild pigs in Hong Kong.

(2) In response to the objections raised by some concern groups on animal interests, the AFCD, on grounds of safety, has suspended hunting operations by the wild pig hunting teams since 2017, and launched a Pilot Capture and Contraception/Relocation Programme of Wild Pigs (CCRP) in October in the same year. Under the Pilot CCRP, contraceptive treatments are given to wild pigs habituated to feeding and found near the community, and those causing nuisance to the public are relocated to the countryside far away from residential areas and facilities (including farms), such as Tai Tam Country Park and Tai Lam Country Park. During such operations, veterinarians first tranquilise wild pigs with dart guns, then inject a contraceptive vaccine GonaConTM specially developed for mammals to suitable female wild pigs and microchip them. GPS transmitters are also put on wild pigs before they are released back to the countryside. In addition, the AFCD is examining the feasibility of conducting permanent surgical sterilisation on site for wild pigs.

Since the launch of the Pilot CCRP, three wild pigs were captured in each operation on average, which is more effective than that captured by hunting (less than one each time on average). To assess the effectiveness of the contraceptive vaccine, the AFCD, in collaboration with the United States Department of Agriculture as well as the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs of the United Kingdom, has commenced an on-site study since this February on the effectiveness of GonaConTM in controlling the breeding of wild pigs. As the adoption of GonaConTM in controlling the breeding of wild pigs has never been tried out elsewhere in the world, it is premature to comment on the effectiveness of the contraceptive vaccine at this stage. The AFCD expects that the assessments on the effectiveness of GonaConTM and the feasibility of conducting permanent surgical sterilisation on site will be completed at the end of 2019.

Large in size and aggressive in temper, an adult wild pig may weigh up to 150 kg and measure up to 1.6 m in length. Adult males

even have tusks to attack. As it takes at least 10 minutes for the anaesthetic to take effect after successful injection, during which wild pigs will try their best to dash off and become aggressive, the AFCD, on account of operational need and safety, has to deploy 12 to 15 staff to capture wild pigs in each operation. On-site preparation (such as allowing wild pigs to get used to the tools at the trap so as to reduce their alertness) is also required about two weeks in advance of the operation. The expenditure involved for the Pilot CCRP in 2017/18 was \$1.79 million. The AFCD has earmarked \$3.5 million to implement the Pilot CCRP in 2018/19.

(3) To prevent wild animals such as monkeys and wild pigs from foraging food from refuse, the AFCD commissioned in 2018 a local university to help improve the design of refuse collection facilities being used in residential areas and on the streets. The first batch of design has been completed by the contractor. It is expected that trials will be carried out on site when prototypes are ready early next year.

(4) The AFCD is conducting a series of publicity and education programmes, including promotion on TV, radio and public transportation, as well as organisation of fun day, roving exhibitions, public lectures and visits, to publicise the negative impacts of feeding wild animals. The AFCD has also set up a YouTube Channel and Facebook page earlier, and launched the TV Announcements in the Public Interest together with a series of micro-movies titled "Don't Feed Wild Animals and Feral Pigeons" to inform the public about the negative consequences of feeding wild pigs, monkeys and feral pigeons, etc. In addition, the AFCD is promoting public awareness of the wild pig problem through its newly designed posters, banners and leaflets.

(5) If wild pigs are frequently spotted searching for food from feeders in the vicinity of certain residential areas, the AFCD will put up banners or posters at suitable places within these areas to remind the public not to feed wild animals. Where possible, the AFCD will also set up infrared automatic cameras to monitor the feeding and appearance of wild pigs. The information collected will be referred to the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department for follow-ups on the environmental hygiene problems caused by such feeding. Furthermore, under the Wild Animals Protection Ordinance (Cap. 170), feeding of wild animals (including wild pigs) in feeding ban areas such as Kam Shan, Lion Rock and Shing Mun Country Parks, part of Tai Mo Shan Country Park, Tai Po Kau Nature Reserve, area of Caldecott Road and Piper's Hill section of Tai Po Road will be liable to prosecution and a maximum fine of \$10,000. The AFCD conducts regular patrols at the feeding ban areas. There was no prosecution initiated for wild pig feeding in these areas over the past three years.

(6) When encountering wild pigs, members of the public should keep calm and stay away from them as far as possible. One must not get near them or drive them away with any objects lest there should be danger. If necessary, one may hide behind some robust and large barriers, and wait until the wild pigs leave before proceeding with one's activities. If wild pigs are found searching for food on farmland, farmers could erect sturdy fences to protect crops or use infrared auto-trigger lightings to deter wild pigs. Farmers should not drive wild pigs away from the farmland with any object, and should immediately keep dogs under restraint so that the wild pigs will not feel threatened and react in self-defence. When a wild pig is posing immediate threats to life and property, one should report to the police for emergency assistance.

(7) According to the FHB, since the outbreak of African Swine Fever (ASF) found in the Mainland in August this year, the Government has been maintaining close liaison with relevant Mainland authorities on the latest development, so as to prevent the spread of the disease to Hong Kong. The Government has stepped up cleansing and

disinfection in various areas, including boundary checkpoints, transportation and slaughterhouses, etc. In addition, the AFCD has been actively disseminating messages to relevant sectors and pig farmers on how to prevent ASF infection with a view to enhancing their vigilance of this disease. Among others, the messages cover how to implement good biosecurity measures, such as preventing wild animals from entering pig farms. Based on the current biosecurity measures in place in pig farms, it is believed that there will be minimal direct contact between wild pigs and pigs in farms. As the ASF virus can persist for months in pork and pork products, the AFCD has amended the conditions of the livestock keeping licences issued to pig farms to ban the use of kitchen waste and catering waste that may contain or have been in contact with pork or pork products as feeds. To assist pig farmers switching to other suitable feeds and procuring the necessary equipment, the AFCD has set up a special loan scheme under the J.E. Joseph Trust Fund to provide low-interest loan up to \$800,000. The AFCD will continue carrying out farm inspections and educating farmers, with a view to ensuring proper implementation of disease prevention work and good biosecurity measures at various levels. The AFCD has also prepared contingency plans in response to outbreak of ASF at local pig farms which cover culling operations and relevant compensation packages, and conducted a pig culling drill earlier, in order to enhance preparedness for preventing the spread of ASF in Hong Kong.

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Press Releases

SFH visits Beijing to discuss food safety and supply of agricultural food to Hong Kong (with photos)

The Secretary for Food and Health, Professor Sophia Chan, today (October 29) met with officials from the General Administration of Customs, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of the State Council and the Ministry of Commerce during her visit in Beijing, with a view to fostering closer ties and enhancing exchanges with the relevant Mainland authorities in respect of matters relating to food safety and the supply of agricultural food to Hong Kong.

Professor Chan met with the Minister of the General Administration of Customs, Mr Ni Yuefeng, and the Vice Minister of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, Mr Yu Kangzhen, this morning and took the opportunity to learn about the latest situation of the outbreak of African swine fever (ASF) on the Mainland.

Professor Chan said, "The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government is very concerned with, and is paying close attention to, the outbreak of ASF on the Mainland, and has been maintaining close liaisons with the General Administration of Customs and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs on the development and response actions. So far, no pig farm registered for supplying Hong Kong is affected and the supply of live pigs from the Mainland remains generally stable. I express my heartfelt gratitude to the General Administration of Customs and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs for their efforts over the past two months or so in the management and control work at source, as well as their efforts in ensuring steady supply of live pigs to Hong Kong. In particular, the announcement of a package of measures in quarantine and control in transporting live pigs to Hong Kong last week can ensure that live pigs for supply to Hong Kong undergo strict quarantine and control by the Customs authorities."

She added, "Although there is no food safety issue connected with ASF, the HKSAR Government has already stepped up bio-security measures in various areas, including pig farms, slaughterhouses and boundary checkpoints, to prevent infection to local pig farms. Among them, cleaning and disinfection of vehicles and personnel entering and leaving slaughterhouses and pig farms have been enhanced, and use of swill of animal origin as pig feed is being phased out."

In addition, Professor Chan told Mr Yu, "The HKSAR Government has been actively promoting the sustainable development of the fisheries industry in recent years, consistent with the direction of development on the Mainland. We believe that the option for HKSAR fishermen to develop aquaculture business in Mainland waters is worth exploring."

Aside from the outbreak of ASF, Professor Chan and Mr Ni also discussed other issues relating to food safety and supply. She also signed a protocol with the Director General of the General Office of the General Administration of Customs, Mr Zhang Guangzhi, on the importation of bird's nest products into the Mainland.

Professor Chan remarked, "The formal signing of the protocol on implementation of inspection and quarantine arrangements for imported bird's nest products from Hong Kong will help foster the trading of bird's nests between the Mainland and the HKSAR, and will also be welcomed by the trade of the two places. On behalf of the HKSAR Government, I thank the General Administration of Customs for its great support on this issue."

"In addition, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department and the General Administration of Customs will continue to work on the regulatory scheme on the carriage by travellers, as well as postage, of bird's nest products into the Mainland."

In the afternoon, Professor Chan paid a courtesy call to the Deputy Director of the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of the State Council, Mr Song Zhe, and the Assistant Minister of Commerce, Mr Ren Hongbin. Professor Chan told Mr Song that the Central People's Government and the SARG had attached great importance to the development of the Greater Bay Area, under the framework of which the Mainland and the HKSAR had been stepping up co-operation in all aspects.

During the meeting with the officials of the Ministry of Commerce, both sides exchanged views on food supply to Hong Kong, particularly on safeguarding the stable supply, quality and safety of agricultural products. They also agreed to maintain close co-operation on these issues.

Those accompanying Professor Chan on the visit included the Permanent Secretary for Food and Health (Food), Mr Philip Yung; the Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation, Dr Leung Siu-fai; the Controller of the Centre for Food Safety, Dr Ho Yuk-yin; and the Assistant Commissioner of Customs and Excise (Boundary and Ports), Ms Louise Ho. Professor Chan departed for Hong Kong after her Beijing visit this evening.

Ends/Monday, October 29, 2018
Issued at HKT 18:10

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Press Releases

Government heightens vigilance and enhances measures to prepare for African Swine Fever (with photos)

In the light of the latest development of the African Swine Fever (ASF) outbreak, the Secretary for Food and Health, Professor Sophia Chan, today (December 20) convened an interdepartmental meeting again to listen to reports of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) and the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) on the latest situation, and review the preparatory work and contingency strategies in place that guard against the spreading of ASF to Hong Kong, with a view to ensuring swift and effective response in different scenarios.

"ASF is a contagious disease in pigs which will not be transmitted to human, posing no food safety risk. Well-cooked pork and pork products are safe for consumption. Since the first ASF case on the Mainland in August this year, we have already implemented a number of preventive measures. So far, there has been no ASF case in Hong Kong and in Mainland registered farms for supplying live pigs to Hong Kong. Nevertheless, we do not take the issue lightly, and have already stepped up the biosecurity work in various areas, including local pig farms, slaughterhouses and boundary checkpoints. We will take further measures having regard to the latest development," Professor Chan said.

"Regarding the concern of the public and the trade about live pig supply, the recent supply of live pigs from the Mainland has remained rather steady, both in terms of quantity and auction price, with no extraordinary fluctuation. We have all along been keeping close liaison with the relevant Mainland authorities to maintain steady supply of live pigs, and ensure that all live pigs come from qualified registered pig farms for supplying Hong Kong that are not affected by ASF.

"Although ASF does not involve any food safety issue, due to the need to prevent this disease from infecting local pig farms, pigs being tested to be ASF-borne or coming from ASF-infected registered farms will be culled and not released to the market. We appeal to the public not to buy pork with unknown sources. Pork has to be thoroughly cooked before consumption." she said.

As ASF could cause massive infection and death in pigs within a short period of time, to prevent ASF from infecting Hong Kong and severely impacting the local pig rearing sector, FEHD and AFCD have put in place a suite of measures to enhance the preventive work in different areas, such as cleansing and disinfection of vehicles and personnel entering and leaving the slaughterhouses and pig farms. FEHD staff will inspect the health certificates of all live pig consignments from the Mainland and monitor the health status of live pigs at the boundary checkpoints. All imported and local pigs have to undergo ante-mortem and post-mortem inspections in slaughterhouses before supplying to the market. If suspected symptoms are detected in pigs, samples will be taken and immediately sent to AFCD's laboratory for rapid tests. Furthermore, FEHD and the relevant government departments will strengthen co-operation to crack down illegal importation of fresh meat.

AFCD will continue to raise local pig farmers' knowledge of preventing ASF through various channels, such as organising meetings and seminars with the trade. At present, all local pig farms have already suspended the importation of breeders from the Mainland. AFCD has amended the licence conditions for livestock keeping to ban the use of swill of animal origin as pig feed effective from January 12, 2019 to minimise the risk of contracting

ASF. AFCD inspects all local pig farms frequently to ensure that the preventive measures are properly implemented.

Moreover, the Food and Health Bureau, FEHD and AFCD met with representatives from the trade several times in the past few months to inform them of the development of the outbreak and actions being taken by the Government, and take heed of their views. The Government will continue to maintain close communication with the trade.

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Press Releases

Government officers met trade representatives on contingency plans for African Swine Fever

The Government officers today (December 28) met local pig farmers and stakeholders related to supply chain of live pigs on preventive measures and contingency plans to guard against the spreading of African Swine Fever (ASF) to Hong Kong, culling arrangements under different scenarios as well as the Government's assistance to the trade and compensation for culling of pigs.

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) briefed local pig farmers this afternoon at the Tai Lung Experimental Station on the Government's plans. The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) also met representatives of the trade and the relevant stakeholders, including slaughterhouse operators, livestock agents, buyers and meat transportation companies, in the Sheung Shui Slaughterhouse this afternoon to explain to them the related arrangements.

A spokesman for the Food and Health Bureau (FHB) said, "Today's meetings effectively allowed all the parties to exchange views on the contingency plans so as to get well prepared for prevention of ASF. We welcome local pig farmers' support for the contingency plans including the culling arrangements, and their continued co-operation with the Government closely on taking preventive measures."

"ASF is not a zoonotic disease and will not be transmitted to human, hence posing no food safety risk. Well-cooked pork and pork products are safe for consumption. As ASF could cause massive infection and death in pigs within a short period of time, the relevant Government departments have been closely monitoring the latest developments of ASF, heightening vigilance and implementing the corresponding measures since the first ASF case occurred on the Mainland in August this year.

"The Government has made reference to the prevention and control guidelines and experience of the World Organisation for Animal Health and in various places including the European Union and on the Mainland, and also taken into account the situation of local pig rearing industry and slaughterhouse operation when strengthening the preventive measures and devising contingency plans. The Government also seeks expert advice from time to time along the way. The Government has been maintaining liaison with the local pig rearing sector and gradually implementing various preventive measures, such as deepening the trade's understanding of ASF as well as enhancing cleansing and disinfection in different areas of live pig supply, in a bid to protect the local pig rearing industry and prevent ASF from spreading into local pig farms. All imported and local pigs have to undergo ante-mortem and post-mortem inspections in slaughterhouses to ensure that pigs supplied to the market are fit for human consumption.

"The Mainland authorities exercise stringent inspection and quarantine on live pigs for supply to Hong Kong. So far, there has been no ASF in any registered pig farms supplying Hong Kong (registered farm). If a registered farm were to be infected with ASF or located within or near to the ASF infected area, its supply of live pigs would be suspended. We will continue to closely liaise with the relevant Mainland authorities to strive to maintain steady supply of live pigs to Hong Kong," the spokesman added.

FEHD also releases on its website daily information on the quantity and auction price of live pigs supplied and the estimated

number of live pigs to be supplied on the following day, which has helped enhance the transparency and effective operation of the market. Website: www.fehd.gov.hk/english/sh/index.html

Culling arrangements

According to the contingency plan for local pig farms, in the event to ASF infection, all pigs in that farm will be culled, and the farm will be cleansed and disinfected thoroughly. Restocking of pigs for business resumption could only take place upon inspection to the satisfaction of veterinary surgeons. AFCD will also block and prohibit the movement of pigs of other farms within three kilometres of the infected farm, and closely monitor the situation. If any pig in those farms were found to be infected with ASF, all pigs therein will also be culled. AFCD has devised the procedures for culling in a humane manner.

Incubation period of ASF is at least four days, i.e. 96 hours. ASF virus may be found in slaughterhouses in three scenarios.

First, live pigs have been supplied to a slaughterhouse by a local pig farm or a registered farm within 96 hours prior to the identification of ASF in that farm. Second, a consignment of pigs from a local pig farm or a registered farm on the way to a slaughterhouse is found to be infected, but those pigs have yet to come into contact with other pigs in the slaughterhouse. Third, a pig in the lairage in a slaughterhouse is found to be infected.

In the first scenario, if pigs have been supplied to a slaughterhouse by an infected farm within 96 hours prior to the identification of ASF, all pigs from that farm remaining in the slaughterhouse will be culled. Other pigs in the slaughterhouse will be subject to thorough examination by veterinary surgeons. Sampled testing will be conducted if necessary, such as when the pigs are suspected to be infected. The pigs will be slaughtered and supplied to the market only after they are confirmed to be not infected. The slaughterhouse concerned will be thoroughly cleansed and disinfected after clearance.

In the second scenario, the whole consignment of pigs will be culled. As for other pigs, thorough examination will be conducted by the veterinary surgeons, and sampled testing will be conducted if necessary, such as when the pigs are suspected to be infected. The pigs will be slaughtered and supplied to the market only after they are confirmed to be not infected. The slaughterhouse concerned will be thoroughly cleansed and disinfected after clearance.

In the third scenario, all pigs in the slaughterhouse will be culled. The slaughterhouse will be thoroughly cleansed and disinfected after clearance. As the infected pig may come from either a local farm or a registered farm, or may be infected after entering the slaughterhouse, AFCD will block the movement of pigs of those local farms which have supplied pigs to the slaughterhouse within 96 hours prior to the identification of ASF and carry out an in-depth investigation, until it can rule out the possibility that the local farms concerned are infected. As for the registered farms which have supplied pigs to the slaughterhouse within 96 hours prior to the identification of ASF, the Centre for Food Safety of FEHD will notify the Mainland authorities concerned.

Enhanced preventive measures

As to local pig farms, AFCD implements various preventive measures against ASF, including disseminating information to the trade and pig farmers about prevention against ASF via different channels (e.g. seminars, letters etc.) with a view to raising their awareness on disease precautions. AFCD requests pig farmers to implement proper biosecurity measures, strictly control the access of vehicles and personnel to pig farms, enhance cleansing and disinfection of vehicles and personnel entering and leaving pig

farms and carefully handle excrement.

Apart from stepping up inspection to all pig farms, AFCD has also amended the licence conditions for livestock keeping to ban the storage or use of swill of pork origin or in contact with pork or pork products as feed from January 12, 2019. Pig farmers could apply for financial assistance and loan from AFCD if necessary to purchase facilities for strengthening biosecurity, such as high pressure jets and equipment required for switching to use formulated feed, etc. In addition, the importation of breeding pigs from the Mainland has also been suspended since September this year.

Currently, the local slaughterhouses adopt stringent bio-security measures, including cleansing and disinfection of the slaughterhouses and vehicles entering and leaving the slaughterhouses so as to prevent spreading of ASF virus inside the slaughterhouses or to local pig farms via vehicles. Since live pigs usually will not be kept in the slaughterhouse for more than two days before they are slaughtered while the incubation period of ASF virus is at least 96 hours, the chance of cross infection among pigs is very slim.

Moreover, according to the Imported Game, Meat, Poultry and Eggs Regulations under the Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance (Cap 132), it is an offence to import meat into Hong Kong without a health certificate issued by an issuing entity from the place of origin or prior written permission from FEHD. Offenders are liable on conviction to a fine of \$50,000 and six months' imprisonment.

FEHD and the Customs and Excise Department have stepped up cooperation to crack down on illegal importation of meat by passengers into Hong Kong. Between January and November this year, the Government has brought 294 prosecutions and issued 125 warning letters on the cases concerned. Moreover, FEHD has enhanced publicity by posting posters at control points and disseminating information via social media to promote the message that it is an offence to carry raw meat into Hong Kong without a health certificate.

Information about ASF

More information about ASF is available at the websites of the Food and Health Bureau, AFCD and FEHD for access by the public.

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