

**For information  
on 28 August 2020**

**House Committee of the Legislative Council**

**Update on the Government's Overall Efforts and Relevant Measures  
to Combat COVID-19**

**PURPOSE**

This paper provides an update on the Government's overall efforts and relevant measures to combat Coronavirus Disease 2019 ("COVID-19").

**LATEST SITUATION**

**(a) Local situation**

2. As at 20 August 2020, Hong Kong had 4 605 cumulative confirmed cases (including one probable case). Of these, 75 were fatal cases and 3 899 patients have been discharged after treatment.

3. Hong Kong has experienced a resurgence of COVID-19 cases since mid-June 2020. While the majority of the cases in late June and early July 2020 were imported, a significant number of local cases have been reported since the second week of July 2020. Notably, over 100 cases had been reported for 12 consecutive days from 22 July to 2 August 2020, with a record high of 149 cases on 30 July 2020. Altogether 755 cases were reported in the past two weeks (7 to 20 August 2020). Of these, 697 cases (92.3%) were locally acquired infections.

4. Despite the fact that the number of daily new cases has come down from its peak in late July, it remains at a high level with the seven-

day average comparable to the peak of the second wave in March/April 2020. Unlike the second wave which was brought about mainly by imported cases of returnees, the third wave is characterised by community infection with a widespread distribution geographically and across sectors. The latest virus strain is observed to have higher transmissibility, and its spread to elderly homes and elderly or chronic disease patients has brought about a rising mortality rate. The occurrence of new and growing clusters in settings such as dormitories for foreign domestic helpers and a workplace for port workers suggests that the risk of an explosive community outbreak and a rebound of the epidemic situation remains considerably high.

5. The high proportion of new cases with unknown sources of infection at some 35% and their widely varying trades and settings indicate that silent or sub-clinical transmission chains are prevalent in the community. It is highly worrying that such transmission chains are prevalent in the community. Unlike the second wave which was subdued much faster, the third wave is declining slowly notwithstanding the most stringent border control and social distancing measures being imposed since mid-July 2020. This suggests that the third wave of the epidemic, which is the most severe that Hong Kong has experienced so far, is far from over.

## **(b) Global and Mainland situation**

### ***Global Situation***

6. At the same time, the global epidemic situation remains severe. As at 20 August 2020, a total of 218 countries, territories or areas had reported over 22 million COVID-19 cases with over 770 000 deaths. The number of cases has been on a rapid and continuous rising trend, from about 70 000 to 100 000 new cases per day during late March to May 2020, to about 220 000 to 280 000 new cases per day in late July to early August 2020.

7. It is noteworthy that the number of new cases in the Americas

and Southeast Asia has been increasing rapidly while resurgence of cases has been observed in some Western Pacific countries. In the Americas, the number of cases in South American countries has increased sharply since May 2020. There has also been resurgence of cases in the United States since late June 2020 and the daily number of new cases remain high at around 40 000 to 70 000 in the last two weeks. As for South Asia, the number of new cases in India has been rapidly increasing since April 2020, with around 50 000 to 60 000 new cases per day in the past two weeks. Resurgence of cases has also been observed in Australia, Japan and Singapore since June/July 2020. Resurgence of locally acquired cases in New Zealand since mid-August 2020 after 102 days with no community transmission has resulted in a temporary lockdown of the northern part of the country.

### ***Mainland Situation***

8. On the Mainland, the number of cases had decreased to less than five new cases on most days by late April to early May 2020. From 6 to 19 August 2020, 367 cases were reported. Of these, 236 were imported cases and 131 local cases. The majority of the local cases originated from Xinjiang and Liaoning Province, where locally acquired cases have been reported since mid-July 2020. In Macao, the last case of local infection was reported on 28 March 2020, who was a close contact of an imported case.

## **ANTI-EPIDEMIC STRATEGY AND KEY MEASURES**

9. The Government has been implementing the “suppress and lift” strategy in order to quickly adjust epidemic control measures having regard to the development of the outbreak situation. In order to avoid the situation seen in many places where the increasing number of new cases overwhelmed the healthcare system and resulted in a high death toll, the Government has been sparing no efforts in containing the spread of the disease through a multi-pronged approach and will continue to step up control of the outbreak and prevent transmission of the virus on all fronts.

An overview of our key measures is set out in the ensuing paragraphs.

## **(A) Border Control Measures and Compulsory Quarantine**

### ***(i) Compulsory Quarantine Arrangement***

10. In accordance with the Compulsory Quarantine of Certain Persons Arriving at Hong Kong Regulation (Cap. 599C) and the Compulsory Quarantine of Persons Arriving at Hong Kong from Foreign Places Regulation (Cap. 599E), except for those exempted by the Chief Secretary for Administration (“CS”) in accordance with provisions of the regulations, all persons having stayed in any places outside Hong Kong for any period during the 14 days preceding arrival in Hong Kong are currently subject to compulsory quarantine for 14 days, regardless of nationality and travel documents used.

11. We have earlier introduced flexibility to the regimes under Cap. 599C and Cap. 599E to allow the Secretary for Food and Health (“SFH”) to specify (a) place(s) which would remain subject to the compulsory quarantine arrangement (i.e. Category 1 specified place(s)); and (b) such place(s) which are excluded from the arrangement if certain specified conditions are met (i.e. Category 2 specified place(s)), having regard to the extent of the spread of the disease in that place and the public health risk posed to Hong Kong by persons arriving from that place or who have stayed in that place. As of now, all places outside Hong Kong are Category 1 specified places.

12. In light of the latest epidemic situation locally as well as that outside Hong Kong, it is essential to continue imposing stringent border control measures to reduce mobility and flow of people between Hong Kong and other places. On the movement of people between Hong Kong and the rest of China, the Government gazetted on 21 August 2020 legislative amendments to Cap. 599C to extend its expiry date for one month to 7 October 2020. As for the movement of people between Hong Kong and places outside of China, Cap. 599E will expire on 31 December 2020.

13. We would like to point out that the 14-day compulsory quarantine arrangements currently imposed under the two regulations would not necessarily be maintained until the corresponding expiry dates of the regulations. Rather, there are provisions in place to allow flexibility as set out in paragraph 11 above such that we may tighten or relax the border control measures having regard to the latest epidemic situation and the public health risks arrivals therefrom pose to Hong Kong (see paragraphs 26 – 28 on possible arrangements). As such, the regulations would need to continue to be in place to provide us with the legal framework for imposing the relevant requirements.

*(ii) Exempted Persons under Cap. 599C and Cap. 599E*

14. Currently, CS has exempted a total of 33 categories of persons (at **Annex A**) under Cap. 599C and 10 categories under Cap. 599E (at **Annex B**). The exemption arrangement under Cap. 599C and Cap. 599E is essential to maintain the necessary operation of Hong Kong society and the local economy, and to ensure an uninterrupted supply of all daily necessities to the public, which includes imports of food products, groceries as well as other commodities from land, air and sea routes. The Government has been closely monitoring the risk to and pressure on public health brought about by imported cases, and adopts relevant coping measures in a resolute manner.

*Exempted Persons Arriving at the Hong Kong International Airport*

15. Exempted persons arriving at the Hong Kong International Airport (“HKIA”) are mostly persons arriving from overseas exempted under Cap. 599E. Air crew make up the largest group of exempted persons arriving at HKIA, accounting for almost 95% of those in August 2020. On the other hand, since the suspension of crew change for all passenger vessels and goods vessels without cargo operation on 29 July 2020, sea crew arriving in Hong Kong for crew change currently only make up around 3% of exempted persons arriving from HKIA. Other exempted persons, including officers of Consulates General and other government officials, account for the remaining 2%.

16. Having regard to the higher public health risk for persons arriving from overseas, and in recognition of the increasing number of confirmed cases among air crew and sea crew personnel, the Government announced the suspension of crew change arrangement for all passenger vessels and goods vessels without cargo operation with effect from 29 July 2020. On the other hand, the testing arrangement for all exempted persons arriving at HKIA has been stepped up. All air crew and incoming sea crew members of goods vessels coming to Hong Kong for cargo operation arriving at HKIA must obtain a negative result of nucleic acid test for COVID-19 conducted at a recognised laboratory within 48 hours prior to boarding. They must also submit a deep throat saliva (“DTS”) specimen at DH’s Temporary Specimen Collection Centre (“TSCC”) upon arrival to Hong Kong for testing purpose. All incoming sea crew members and those air crew members who do not possess negative test results must wait at the TSCC or other designated location until their test results are confirmed negative.

17. In order to further mitigate the risk of spreading of the COVID-19 virus into the community through exempted persons, airlines and shipping companies/agents are required to arrange point-to-point transfer for the air crew and sea crew members and the use of public transportation which will serve the general public at the same time is prohibited. Incoming and outgoing sea crew members must only travel between the vessels and HKIA and should not go into the community; while air crew members must self-isolate at their hotel rooms or at home in accordance with the requirements.

18. Persons who are found to be in breach of the above exemption conditions would risk their exemption status being revoked and will be subject to compulsory quarantine for 14 days. They are also subject to a maximum fine of \$5,000 and imprisonment for six months. In addition, airlines and shipping companies/agents should implement all necessary measures to ensure compliance with the above requirements. Relevant airlines and shipping companies/agents will be held liable for any contravention of the above requirements.

19. All other exempted persons arriving Hong Kong at HKIA must also obtain a negative result of nucleic acid test for COVID-19 conducted at a recognised laboratory within 48 hours prior to boarding the flight to Hong Kong. Otherwise, they must take a nucleic acid test for COVID-19 at the TSCC upon arrival at HKIA, and either wait for the results there or self-isolate at a designated location for 48 hours.

*Exempted Persons Arriving at Land Boundary Control Points*

20. As regards exempted persons under Cap. 599C arriving by land, the largest proportion is made up of cross-boundary goods vehicle drivers whose operation is necessary for meeting Hong Kong's essential needs. On average, over 10 000 trips were made by these drivers on each working day. It is estimated that cross-boundary goods vehicle drivers also account for around 90% of the daily average number of medical surveillance notices issued by DH at land boundary control points (medical surveillance notices are only issued to cross-boundary goods vehicle drivers every 14 days in view of their frequent travel pattern). On the other hand, it is estimated that apart from cross-boundary goods vehicle drivers, on average not more than 6% of daily travels to the Mainland through land boundary control points belong to exempted persons.

21. On the issue of whether there is scope to tighten the exemption regime or testing arrangement for exempted persons arriving at land boundary control points, it should be pointed out that any control measure has to be considered in the light of epidemiological evidence. It is noteworthy that (a) unlike some overseas countries, owing to the adoption of very stringent control measures, there has not been a single imported confirmed case from the Mainland, Macao or Taiwan under Cap. 599C<sup>1</sup>; and (b) although 33 categories of persons totalling about 39 000 individuals are eligible for exemption under Cap. 599C, only a limited number has actually made use of this because of the absence of mutual exemption on the Guangdong ("GD") and Macao side unless they have to travel on a specific date for a specific purpose.

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<sup>1</sup> By comparison, 800 arrivals from overseas countries for compulsory quarantine under Cap.599E were identified as confirmed cases.

22. In view of the latest epidemic development on the Mainland, with effect from 6 August 2020, inbound travellers who have been to Xinjiang or Liaoning Province in the past 14 days (including exempted persons) arriving via land boundary control points are provided with specimen collection containers. They are required to collect their DTS specimen by themselves in accordance with the instructions and return the sample for conducting COVID-19 testing. The Government will continue to closely monitor the latest situation of COVID-19 around the world and review the quarantine and testing arrangements for inbound travellers entering Hong Kong including exempted persons accordingly.

#### *Additional Exemption Categories*

23. While there have been calls to include more categories of persons from different sectors of society such as persons having compassionate grounds, we consider that the focus at present should be on cutting mobility of people across the border to reduce the spread of disease. We will keep under review the above requests and introduce additional categories at an appropriate juncture (e.g. when the local epidemic situation stabilises).

#### *(iii) Conditions Imposed on Travellers from High-risk Places*

24. The Prevention and Control of Disease (Regulation of Cross-boundary Conveyances and Travellers) Regulation (Cap. 599H) was gazetted on 13 July 2020 to introduce a mechanism to empower SFH to impose conditions related to the prevention and control of disease or protection of public health on cross-boundary conveyances arriving at Hong Kong from specified places and relevant travellers coming to Hong Kong on the conveyances. The mechanism empowers the Government to flexibly impose various conditions for relevant travellers, either based on their originating place (e.g. specific high-risk places), or solely having regard to the office they assume (e.g. air crew or sea crew), including requiring inbound travellers from cross-boundary conveyances to obtain a negative result of a COVID-19 test conducted by a recognised laboratory before arriving at Hong Kong.



25. In view of the latest public health risk assessment, at present, any traveller who, on the day on which the traveller boarded a civil aviation aircraft that arrives at, or is about to arrive at Hong Kong, or during the 14 days before that day, has stayed in any specified place (i.e. Bangladesh, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, South Africa and the United States of America), must provide the documents relating to a nucleic acid test for COVID-19 and room reservation in a hotel in Hong Kong. Having regard to the circumstances on the ground since the implementation of Cap. 599H, these conditions have been simplified with effect from 10 August 2020. From 25 July (when the conditions applicable to the first batch of specified places took effect) to 19 August 2020, among the 13 617 quarantine orders issued under Cap. 599E during this period, around 21% (or 2 976 orders) are issued to travellers subject to requirements under Cap. 599H.

***(iv) Pilot Scheme on Mutual Exemption from Compulsory Quarantine in Hong Kong, Guangdong and Macao to be Implemented under Cap. 599C***

26. The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (“HKSAR”) Government has been working with the governments of GD Province and Macao Special Administrative Region under the joint prevention and control work mechanism on the gradual resumption of the cross-boundary flow between Hong Kong and GD, and between Hong Kong and Macao in an orderly manner once the epidemic situation stabilises. Through the mutual recognition of COVID-19 test results and testing facilities which meet the relevant standards, and with the use of the “health code”, the three governments would introduce a pilot scheme to mutually exempt designated persons from their respective compulsory quarantine arrangements. The “Hong Kong Health Code” system would enable recognised medical testing laboratories in Hong Kong to upload valid nucleic acid testing results of persons eligible for exemption from compulsory quarantine. These eligible persons who are tested negative can download the Hong Kong Health Code for conversion to the GD or Macao Health Code (i.e. the “Yue Kang Code” or “Macao Health Code” respectively) for health declaration purpose in entering GD or Macao.

Eligible persons arriving in Hong Kong from GD and Macao can also choose to use the new code conversion function on the “Yue Kang Code” and “Macao Health Code” systems to convert their testing results for use on the electronic Health Declaration Form platform of Hong Kong

27. Technical development of the “Hong Kong Health Code” has been completed and the system is ready for use. We have also launched the Laboratory Recognition Scheme with the participation of 16 laboratories to enable members of the public to have convenient access to COVID-19 tests. With the increase in the testing capacity of local private laboratories, market competition has increased and the price of testing has decreased.

28. In view of the third wave of local outbreak in Hong Kong which started in mid-July 2020, the introduction of the pilot scheme on mutual exemption has been put on hold. We will liaise with GD and Macao to implement the pilot scheme with a view to categorising GD and Macao as Category 2 specified places under Cap. 599C so that people can travel more freely between Hong Kong and GD/Macao with a recognised negative test result when the local outbreak situation in Hong Kong has subsided. It is worth noting that the Hong Kong Health Code is prepared for the purpose of facilitating boundary crossing. The Government has no plans to allow members of the public to use the health code system as a means to seek exemption from certain social distancing requirements, or be allowed free access to certain venues at a certain time.

29. At the same time, the Government will also continue to explore with targeted overseas economies the gradual resumption of cross-border travel (i.e. “travel bubbles”). On establishing the relevant arrangement, it is most important to contain the potential risk brought about by the increase of passenger flow, and continuously monitor the epidemic development and prevention work of the relevant places while relaxing the control on inbound passenger traffic progressively. The overall goal is to strike a balance between economic considerations and epidemic control. The discussion will be based on science and aim to formulate simple and practical operation procedures with appropriate health control and protocol.

The Government has established an inter-departmental team to discuss the arrangement with the relevant economies.

## **(B) Surveillance and Testing**

30. We have adopted a three-pronged approach in conducting testing in the public sector. DH and the Hospital Authority (“HA”) will continue to focus on early case detection for epidemic control, confirmation of preliminary positive cases, disease surveillance, and to cope with testing required for sudden outbreaks. Private testing services may be procured by DH and HA for these purposes when needed. The second and third prongs of the strategy involve large-scale testing programmes respectively targeting groups with higher risk or higher exposure, and the general asymptomatic population. Surveillance and testing to detect cases of infection has been ramped up significantly with more than 860 000 tests conducted since early July 2020, compared with about 350 000 tests between January and June 2020.

### ***(i) Epidemiological Testing by HA and DH***

31. DH and HA have enhanced COVID-19 testing on all fronts for early case detection for epidemic control and disease surveillance. Various tiers of surveillance have been introduced and implemented progressively. Testing of high-risk groups such as airport workers and bus drivers have also been initiated. Latest enhancements include making available specimen containers at the 22 General Outpatient Clinics of HA for persons who perceive themselves to have higher risk of exposure and experience mild discomfort; and extending admission screening to epidemiologically high-risk groups, including residents living in Tsz Wan Shan, workers of food premises and taxi drivers.

32. The daily average number of tests performed by DH and HA has substantially increased in the past months, from over 3 600 in June to over 11 300 in August (as of 19 August 2020)<sup>2</sup>. Furthermore, DH’s satellite

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<sup>2</sup> DH and HA have procured testing services from private laboratories from mid-July and late July 2020 respectively.

laboratory at the Hong Kong Children's Hospital has commenced operation since 27 July 2020 providing an addition of about 1 000 tests per day. Further expansion in the testing capacity is expected through the new laboratories at the Chinese University of Hong Kong and the University of Hong Kong.

***(ii) Targeted Group Testing Scheme***

33. The epidemic situation in Hong Kong had worsened rapidly since early July. Within a relatively short span of time, a number of local confirmed cases with unidentified sources emerged. There were even premises-related and industry-related infected groups. In view of this development, with funding support from the Anti-epidemic Fund ("AEF") and departments' own resources, the Government has launched large-scale voluntary COVID-19 virus tests for targeted groups who have higher risks, such as those who, if infected, would pose a threat to vulnerable persons or who have frequent and close contact with the public in view of their job nature. For this, the Government has also enhanced the overall local testing capacity. The objective of the Targeted Group Testing Scheme ("TGTS") is to identify the asymptomatic infected persons in the community and to achieve "early identification, early isolation and early treatment" so that the community infection chains can be blocked as soon as possible.

34. The TGTS has been introduced in phases since mid-July to provide free and one-off voluntary tests to higher-risk groups, which are estimated to amount to about one million. The sectors that are currently covered include: staff members of residential care homes for the elderly ("RCHEs")/ persons with disabilities ("RCHDs") and nursing homes, staff of boarding section of special schools, public transport drivers, restaurant staff, market tenants and staff, slaughterhouse staff, staff of the property management sector, residents in public or private housing estates with confirmed cases, foreign domestic helpers staying in boarding facilities of employment agencies, pregnant women, frontline staff of the Post Office, as well as mobile fishermen and their deckhands. As of 20 August, about 354 000 samples were tested and 71 samples (about 0.02% of the tested

samples) were found to be positive.

35. With the significantly enhanced testing capacity, the Government will continue to launch testing arrangements for more groups with higher risks, including frontline hotel staff, tenants/staff at non-government markets, licensed hawkers, staff of social welfare day services, teachers and other school staff, frontline employees of government departments with frequent contact with members of the public, etc. Some targeted groups with genuine needs, for example, staff members of RCHes, RCHDs and nursing homes, will also be provided with repeated testing. The Government will consider the need for further expansion of the TGTS in view of the development of the epidemic situation.

***(iii) Universal Community Testing Programme***

36. The Government will introduce the Universal Community Testing Programme (“UCTP”) to provide one-off virus testing services free-of-charge to all Hong Kong citizens who may join on a voluntary basis. The programme will commence on 1 September 2020 and run for a period between 7 to 14 days.

37. Under the UCTP, the Government will make available suitable venues in different districts to serve as Community Testing Centres where healthcare professionals can assist members of the public to take specimen for the tests. The specimen collection will be administered by a team comprising healthcare professionals (registered medical doctors, dentists or nurses), workers with some healthcare training (e.g. dental hygienists, ambulancemen) or students studying healthcare programmes (e.g. nursing students).

38. There will be an online booking system to prevent crowding of people at the testing centres. Information required will be minimal, including name, Hong Kong Identity Card number and contact number of the individual. An SMS will be sent to confirm the appointment. If the test result is negative, the system will inform the individual by SMS. If the test result is uncertain or positive, DH will contact the concerned

individual for follow-up actions.

39. All personal data will be stored in the government cloud for use by DH and relevant bureaux and departments only for the purpose of disease prevention and control. The laboratories and logistics companies involved in the UCTP will not have access to the identity of specimen owners. Furthermore, all testing under the UCTP will only be carried out in Hong Kong, and no specimens or personal data will be transferred outside Hong Kong. The Government will set up a dedicated website for the UCTP to facilitate dissemination of relevant information and a hotline will also be set up to answer public enquiries.

### **(C) Epidemiological Investigations**

40. Contact tracing serves to identify possible sources of infection for the case and establish epidemiological linkage; and prevent further spread of infection from the case by putting the close contacts under quarantine and medical surveillance. Currently, contact tracing is conducted manually. It is labour-intensive and time consuming and relies on human memory which may be fallible. With the experience in combating COVID-19 in the past few months, the Government has been reviewing the existing approach to enhance the efficiency of its contact tracing operations.

41. To support the DH's work in interviewing, locating and contacting infected persons, sending them to hospitals, as well as identifying and contacting close contacts and sending them to quarantine facilities, public officers from disciplinary forces and other departments will be seconded to the contact tracing team to provide necessary manpower support. As part of the initiative, Prevention and Control of Disease (Disclosure of Information) Regulation (Cap. 599D) has been amended to extend the power currently given to health officer to other authorised officers taking part in contact tracing. This includes the power to require a person to give information that the authorised officer reasonably believes is relevant to the handling of the public health emergency, including information that is considered essential and

necessary to safeguard the integrity of our public health system for contact tracing and surveillance purposes.

42. Meanwhile, the Government will explore stepping up active identification of cases and their close contacts through timely release of more information on new cases through suitable platform with a view to better informing the community of the risk to which they have been exposed such that those who suspect that they have come into contact with a confirmed case (and may not have started showing symptoms) can come forward of their own accord.

#### **(D) Facilities for Quarantine, Isolation, Treatment and “Test and Hold”**

43. Quarantine and isolation facilities play vital roles in the containment and treatment of COVID-19 cases. The Government has been stepping up its efforts to ensure that there are sufficient facilities to cater to potential waves of the pandemic.

##### ***(i) Quarantine Arrangement***

44. The compulsory quarantine for 14 days at quarantine centres (“QCs”) for close contacts and those who may have been exposed to the risk of contracting COVID-19 has proven to be an indispensable measure in our fight against the pandemic. Since January 2020, some 18 490 persons have been admitted into QCs as at 20 August 2020. Among these confinees, 790 (around 4.2%) were identified as confirmed cases during their stay in QCs, demonstrating the effectiveness of compulsory quarantine in preventing community outbreaks.

45. There are currently four QCs, located at the Junior Police Call Permanent Activity Centre at Pat Heung, Sai Kung Outdoor Recreation Centre, Penny’s Bay Phase I and Chun Yeung Estate (“CYE”) (Blocks 1, 2 and 3)<sup>3</sup>. The total capacity of these QCs is around 2 600. The

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<sup>3</sup> Blocks 4 and 5 of CYE have been returned to Housing Authority for public housing purposes and their intake will commence gradually in late August 2020. As for Blocks 1 to 3, in view of the

construction for Penny's Bay QC Phase II commenced in end-June 2020, for completion by September to provide 700 units. Furthermore, Phases IIIA, IIIB and IV are targeted to commence shortly and expected to be completed in December for provision of another 2 000 quarantine units. In other words, a total of 3 500 units will be provided in Penny's Bay for quarantine purpose.

46. Additionally, three designated quarantine facilities have been set up specifically for close contact residents of RCHEs and RCHDs who are bedridden or have special medical needs, and as such not suitable to be quarantined in ordinary QCs. The three sites are the Hong Kong Jockey Club PHAB Camp (40 beds) in Pok Fu Lam, the Helping Hand Cheung Muk Tau Holiday Centre for the Elderly (60 beds) in Sai Kung, and the AsiaWorld-Expo ("AWE").

47. Two AWE halls began operation on 24 and 31 July 2020 respectively as designated quarantine facilities for RCHE/RCHD residents, providing 228 beds. A third hall will complete its set up by 22 August 2020 to provide an additional 160 beds. With the activation of the third hall, the two earlier halls will be expanded in turn to similarly provide 160 beds each. Subsequent to the relocation of DH's TSCC to HKIA (see paragraph 59 to 61 below) on 18 August 2020, a fourth hall will also be set up. Together, the four halls will provide a total of 640 RCHE/RCHD quarantine beds.

48. The current and projected provision of quarantine facilities is set out in **Annex C** for reference.

## ***(ii) Hospitals, Isolation and Treatment Facilities***

49. To ensure proper care of COVID-19 patients and to prevent further transmission, all confirmed cases are admitted to public hospitals and treatment facilities managed by HA for isolation and treatment. As

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significant increases in both the number of confirmed cases and close contacts in Hong Kong, the Government considers it necessary to continue to use these three blocks as QC. The Government currently estimates that Blocks 1 to 3 of CYE should be able to cease QC operation by the end of this year when the 2 000 quarantine units of the Penny's Bay Phase III QC come into operation.



at 21 August 2020, a total of 3 899 patients had been discharged by HA after treatment, while 604 confirmed cases were being treated in hospitals or Community Treatment Facility (“CTF”).

50. The upsurge of cases since early July 2020 has put enormous pressure on our public hospital system. In response, HA has adopted a number of measures to enhance service capacity, in particular –

- (a) deploying around 1 250 Tier-1 isolation beds to cope with the demand surge. The occupancy rate of Tier-1 isolation beds has dropped from a high of about 80% in late July 2020 to around 50% as at 21 August 2020;
- (b) re-activating around 500 Tier-2 isolation beds for patients with improving clinical condition. Another batch of Tier-2 isolation beds will be made available by end-August 2020, taking the total Tier-2 isolation bed capacity to around 660 beds. As at 21 August 2020, 64 patients were under step-down care of Tier-2 isolation beds;
- (c) reinstating the Test and Triage Centre at 17 Accident and Emergency Departments to provide testing to suspected cases;
- (d) adopting the updated discharge criteria and introducing antibody tests to all seven hospital clusters to facilitate discharge of patients; and
- (e) commencing the operation of the Community Isolation Facility (“CIF”) in the Lei Yue Mun Park and Hospital Village, and the CTF in AWE (see paragraph 52 to 54).

51. With the said measures and hardware facilities in place, HA has cleared the waiting list of confirmed patients pending admission with its enhanced capacity.

***(iii) Community Treatment and Isolation Facilities***

52. To relieve the pressure on the demand of hospital isolation beds, the Government has provided assistance to HA to establish CTF and CIF.

53. HA's CTF with 500 beds in Hall 1 of AWE was commissioned on 1 August 2020, which provides triage of confirmed cases and isolation for patients with mild symptoms who are in stable condition. The CPG, on the HKSAR Government's request, had urgently supplied 400 beds and related equipment and consumables to HA to facilitate the set-up of another CTF at Hall 2 of AWE, which has now been completed and is on standby for activation if required. In addition, with the relocation of TSCC, the Government is planning to further expand CTF to four other halls in AWE that are not engaged for RCHE/RCHD quarantine use to provide about 1 000 additional beds.

54. The Government transferred the Lei Yue Mun Park and Holiday Village originally engaged as QC to HA for use as CIF, which commenced operation on 24 July 2020, providing about 350 step-down isolation units. As of 16 August 2020, a total of 240 patients with satisfactory clinical conditions and about to fully recover have been transferred to the CIF for continued monitoring and isolation<sup>4</sup>.

***(iv) Temporary Hospital***

55. To enhance the ability to handle another wave of COVID-19 in the near future, the Government requested the assistance from the CPG to construct a two-storey temporary hospital, which would conform to Hong Kong requirements, on a 3.2 hectare of land near AWE. The proposed temporary hospital will provide negative pressure wards, accommodating 800 to 1 000 beds.

56. The Government has formed a work group led by the Secretary for Development and comprising members from the Food and Health

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<sup>4</sup> The HA has temporarily put the CIF into a standby mode since 17 August 2020 for facility improvement works in preparation for future uses.

Bureau, HA, the Architectural Services Department and other relevant departments to implement the project. The work group has already liaised with Mainland counterparts and visited a Shenzhen temporary hospital (深圳市第三人民醫院應急院). It would take about four months to build the temporary hospital.

57. The current and projected provision of treatment facilities is set out in **Annex D** for reference.

**(v) *Test and hold Facilities***

58. To prevent asymptomatic COVID-19 travellers from entering the community, passengers arriving in Hong Kong via HKIA are subject to the “test and hold” arrangement, whereby they are required to provide their DTS samples at DH’s TSCC upon arrival, and to wait for their test results either at TSCC or at DH’s Holding Centre for Test Result (“HCTR”) (i.e. the holding hotel). Since the measure’s initial implementation on 9 April 2020, as at 19 August 2020, there were around 92 500 tests conducted under the test and hold arrangement, with around 350 positive cases (around 0.38%) identified.

59. DH’s TSCC has been relocated on 18 August 2020 from the five halls engaged in AWE to the Midfield Concourse (“MFC”) of HKIA. The MFC TSCC has an initial holding capacity of 1 000 (up from 700 in AWE), and can be expandable to 1 500. All arriving passengers and crew members are routed to MFC on disembarkation, where they will be issued DTS collection bottles for specimen collection.

60. Passengers who are required to wait for same-day result will stay in designated holding areas in MFC after DTS sample collection. Upon receipt of negative results, they will proceed with immigration clearance, baggage collection and customs clearance.

61. For exempted persons who could leave after submitting DTS specimens (i.e. “test and go”), as well as afternoon/evening passengers who would wait in HCTR, after specimen collection they will proceed with

immigration clearance, baggage collection and customs clearance.

## **(E) Social Distancing Measures**

62. Social distancing measures are an integral part of our efforts to prevent the spread of COVID-19 within the community. To tackle the outbreak of the current wave, starting from mid-July 2020, we have implemented the most stringent social distancing measures since the emergence of the epidemic. These measures are implemented in accordance with the Prevention and Control of Disease (Requirements and Directions) (Business and Premises) Regulation (Cap. 599F), the Prevention and Control of Disease (Prohibition on Group Gathering) Regulation (Cap. 599G) and the Prevention and Control of Disease (Wearing of Mask) Regulation (Cap. 599I) which allow us to impose temporary measures on catering business as well as scheduled premises, to prohibit group gatherings in public places and to mandate the wearing of masks in public places. Details of the current directions and specifications in force under these three regulations, effective for seven days from 19 to 25 August 2020, are set out in **Annex E**.

63. In deciding on the social distancing measures to be put in place, the Government has balanced the oft-competing factors of public health protection, economic impact and social acceptance. In terms of public health protection, any premature relaxation of social distancing measures may result in rebound of the pandemic situation. Meanwhile, we appreciate that as the virus may stay with us for a long time, continued closure of the business premises under Cap. 599F is not sustainable both in economic and social acceptance terms while “anti-pandemic fatigue” may result in low compliance with social distancing measures, thereby undermining their effectiveness in curbing the spread of COVID-19. Taking into account the above, instead of going for “one size fits all”, a more refined or sophisticated approach would be adopted in lifting the social distancing measures when the number of new cases drops to a low level and upon commencement of the UCTP. Under this approach, we would allow resumption in phases of social and economic activities which are essential to daily lives and those the infection risks of which can be

substantially reduced by enhancing disease prevention and control measures. To this end, we have commenced engagement of different sectors to hear their suggestions regarding precautionary measures that may be put in place in their respective businesses and premises.

64. The Government will continue to closely monitor the developments of the pandemic situation and review the various measures in place from time to time with a view to allowing resumption of more social and economic activities as soon as the pandemic situation permits.

#### **(F) Anti-epidemic Fund**

65. In response to the challenges arising from the COVID-19 outbreak, the Government has set up the AEF to enhance Hong Kong's capability in combating the epidemic, and to provide assistance or relief to enterprises and members of the public hard hit by the epidemic or affected by anti-epidemic measures. Two rounds of AEF with a total commitment of \$150.5 billion has been approved by the Legislative Council Finance Committee. So far, the AEF has approved 73 measures<sup>5</sup> with a total commitment of around \$145 billion. We submitted a report to the Legislative Council on 15 July 2020 on the implementation progress of the AEF measures as at end of June. As at end-July 2020, 15 measures have been completed. Over \$70 billion of subsidy has been disbursed.

66. The Government will continue to communicate with stakeholders from different industries, especially those continuously being affected by social-distancing measures, to consider and formulate feasible further relief measures.

#### **(G) Vaccine Procurement**

67. Currently, there are 29 candidate vaccines for protecting against COVID-19 undergoing clinical trials for safety and efficacy evaluation. While six of them have entered phase 3 clinical trial, no vaccine has yet

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<sup>5</sup> Of these, 16 new measures were approved by the AEF Steering Committee after Legislative Council's funding approval.

obtained regulatory approval for human application. Given that global competition will be extremely keen once an efficacious vaccine emerges, Hong Kong needs to take early action to reserve and/or procure potential vaccines for our population in a timely manner.

68. In this regard, we will pursue a two-pronged strategy for procurement of vaccines. On the one hand, we plan to make a binding commitment to participate in the COVAX Facility (“COVAX”) co-led by Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance; the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations; and the World Health Organisation, which should serve as some sort of a safety net to secure vaccines for 20% of the Hong Kong population. While the price per dose of vaccine has yet to be determined and as such the total cost for joining COVAX is still uncertain, participants of COVAX are required to pay a down payment of 15% by mid-September as part of the binding commitment.

69. In view that COVAX would only be able to serve 20% of Hong Kong’s population and the vaccines may only be delivered by end 2021, we will at the same time pursue additional supplies through Advance Purchase Agreements (“APAs”) with individual vaccine developers. The choice on the basket of potential vaccines to reserve and/or procure through APAs will need to be based on scientific evidence and clinical data and deliberated by the Scientific Committee on Emerging & Zoonotic Diseases and the Scientific Committee on Vaccine Preventable Diseases under DH. Given limited clinical data at hand, a definitive view on the choice of the type/brand of vaccines is subject to deliberation. Meanwhile, we have also written to the CPG to register our request for support when Mainland vaccines are available.

70. We will seek the necessary funding early for procuring vaccines for the Hong Kong population under the established funding approval mechanism.

## **(H) Research**

71. In April and August 2020, the Health and Medical Research Fund approved a total funding of \$170 million to support the local universities to conduct 59 medical research studies on COVID-19 under its commissioned research programme to address important research areas in transmissibility and infectability of the virus, effective detection and surveillance and prevention strategies of the disease and development of treatments and therapies. These studies cover a wide range of topics including development of vaccines and novel antiviral drug candidates; sero-epidemiological studies of COVID-19 in the community; investigation of the properties, characteristics, spread, infection and effective therapeutic interventions of SARS-CoV-2; waste water and genomic surveillance to track SARS-CoV-2 transmission; zoonotic risk in companion animals; the effect of smoking and pre-exposure of influenza viruses; screening of traditional Chinese medicine for antiviral compounds; rehabilitation management for COVID-19 survivors; estimation of psychological burden; investigation on Hong Kong's system of early detection, assessment and response to the COVID-19 outbreak; and identification of facilitators and barriers to public compliance with infection control measures. These studies will last for 12 to 24 months. Some studies will be able to provide early results, for example, the real-time population-based sero-epidemiological studies of COVID-19 in the community will help identify the number of asymptomatic people with COVID-19, map the emergence of population immunity, define the duration of immune responses, and develop a transmission model of COVID-19; the waste water surveillance from sewage treatment facilities, quarantine centres and housing estates can provide a complementary system to monitor virus activity at the population level and to detect a resurgence of COVID-19 at an early stage; and genomic surveillance using whole virus sequence data from local COVID-19 cases with no known epidemiological links can help identify the source of infection and untangle silent virus transmission in the community when combined with epidemiological investigations.

## **ADVICE SOUGHT**

72. Members are invited to note the contents of this paper.

**Food and Health Bureau**

**Commerce and Economic Development Bureau**

**Civil Service Bureau**

**Development Bureau**

**Education Bureau**

**Innovation and Technology Bureau**

**Home Affairs Bureau**

**Human Resources Planning and Poverty Co-ordination Unit**

**Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau**

**Labour and Welfare Bureau**

**Transport and Housing Bureau**

**Department of Health**

**Hospital Authority**

**August 2020**



**Compulsory Quarantine of Certain Persons Arriving at Hong Kong Regulation  
(Cap. 599C)**

**Designations for exemption by CS under section (4)(1)**

<b>Designations</b>	<b>Criteria<sup>i</sup></b>
<b>A. Categories of persons</b>	
1. Cross-boundary goods vehicle drivers and necessary accompanying personnel	(a)(i), (a)(iii)
2. Cross-boundary coach or shuttle drivers and crew members	(a)(i)
3. Crew members of aircrafts who need to commute to and from Mainland, Macao and Taiwan for performance of necessary duties <sup>ii</sup>	(a)(i)
4. Government officials carrying out governmental duties	(a)(ii)
5. Government agents and contractors supporting the operation of cross-boundary functions	(a)(ii)
6. Crew members of goods vessels <sup>iii</sup>	(a)(i), (a)(ii), (b)
7. Crew members of passenger ships <sup>iv</sup>	(b)
8. Crew members of fishing vessels and fish collectors (including mainland fishermen deckhands)	(a)(i)
9. Personnel of organisations commissioned by the Director of Social Welfare providing welfare support for Hong Kong residents living in the Mainland	(a)(i), (a)(ii)
10. Construction personnel tasked to carry out off-site duties in the Mainland that are essential and cannot be replaced by other means to ensure the quality, integrity and statutory compliance of services or components to be used in government projects, public housing projects and Airport Authority projects in Hong Kong	(a)(i)
11. Experts, personnel of the academic sectors or of international authorities who are engaged in research and/or provide advice in combating the COVID-19 infection <sup>v</sup> to the HKSAR Government	(a)(iii)
12. Staff of Sheung Shui Slaughterhouse and livestock importers residing in the Mainland	(a)(i)
13. Staff and personnel of public bodies and their partners for the supply of wristbands and related materials for home quarantine	(a)(i), (a)(iii)
14. Personnel of public bodies and their partners, agencies, companies or organisations for the supply to Hong Kong of personal protective equipment (PPE) or materials / equipment for the production of PPE	(a)(i), (a)(iii)

Designations	Criteria <sup>i</sup>
<b>A. Categories of persons</b>	
15. The category of persons verified to be Hong Kong residents living in the Mainland side of Sha Tau Kok	(a)(vi)
16. Staff of security companies who are responsible for transporting physical currency and bearer negotiable instruments (CBNIs) to and from Macao	(a)(i)
17. (a) either the owner of a company with factory/factories in the Mainland which are engaged in manufacturing goods for supply to Hong Kong for its normal operation or for the daily needs of the people of Hong Kong, and up to one personnel employed and so authorized by the company; or (b) up to two personnel employed and so authorized by such a company as described in (a)	(a)(i)
18. (a) either the owner of an enterprise with a valid business registration certificate issued under the Business Registration Ordinance (Cap. 310) and with manufacturing operations in the Mainland, and up to one personnel employed and so authorised by the enterprise; or (b) up to two personnel employed and so authorised by such an enterprise as described in (a)	(b)
19. Persons employed and so authorised by The University of Hong Kong – Shenzhen Hospital <sup>vi</sup>	(b)
20. (a) either the owner of a Hong Kong enterprise with a valid business registration certificate <sup>vii</sup> issued under the Business Registration Ordinance (Cap. 310) which provides medical and dental services in the Mainland and Macao, and up to one person employed and so authorised by the enterprise; or (b) up to two persons employed and so authorised by such an enterprise as described in (a)	(b)
21. Veterinary surgeon, veterinary academics & relevant experts who may work with the Government on prevention and control of animal and zoonotic disease	(b)
22. Construction personnel for provision of professional services in the Mainland: (a) either the owner of an enterprise with a valid business registration certificate issued under the Business Registration Ordinance (Cap. 310) and with provision of construction-related	(b)

Designations	Criteria <sup>i</sup>
<b>A. Categories of persons</b>	
<p>professional services in the Mainland and up to one personnel employed and so authorized by the enterprise; or</p> <p>(b) up to two personnel employed and so authorized by such an enterprise as described in (a)</p>	
<p>23. (i) an arbitrator, mediator or qualified legal practitioner acting as a counsel for a party in arbitration or mediation proceedings administered by a relevant body listed in the Appendix<sup>1</sup> or in litigation proceedings in court, who returns to Hong Kong from the Mainland, Macao or Taiwan after provision of necessary professional services in the aforesaid proceedings there; or</p> <p>(ii) an arbitrator, mediator or qualified legal practitioner acting as a counsel for a party in arbitration or mediation proceedings administered by a relevant body listed in the Appendix or in litigation proceedings in court, who travels from the Mainland, Macao or Taiwan to Hong Kong to provide necessary professional services in the aforesaid proceedings in Hong Kong</p>	(b)
<p>24. A qualified legal practitioner acting for a party in an important and large-scale commercial transaction, being transactions for listing on the Stock Exchange of Hong Kong or notifiable transactions of listed companies under the applicable listing rules of the Stock Exchange of Hong Kong, who either</p> <p>(i) travels from the Mainland, Macao or Taiwan to Hong Kong to provide necessary legal services that require on-site physical presence in relation to the aforesaid transaction or</p> <p>(ii) returns to Hong Kong from the Mainland, Macao or Taiwan after provision of necessary legal services that require on-site physical presence in relation to the aforesaid transaction</p>	(b)
<p>25. (a) up to two personnel who are either the owner and/or the full time employees of each eligible<sup>2</sup> enterprise or institution; and</p>	(b)

<sup>1</sup> [https://www.doj.gov.hk/pdf/20200519\\_sjo1\\_appendix.pdf](https://www.doj.gov.hk/pdf/20200519_sjo1_appendix.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> An eligible enterprise or institution must be:

a. A public R&D institution in Hong Kong (i.e. the Hong Kong Applied Science and Technology Research Institute, the Automotive Platforms and Application Systems Research and Development Centre, the Hong Kong Research Institute of Textiles and Apparel, the Logistics and Supply Chain MultiTech Research and Development Centre, and the Nano and Advanced Materials Institute); or

b. A tenant/incubatee/grantee/occupant of the Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation

Designations	Criteria <sup>i</sup>
<b>A. Categories of persons</b>	
<p>(b) such persons have to travel to the Mainland, Macao or Taiwan for conducting one of the following research and development (R&amp;D)-related activities –</p> <p>(i) on-the-ground R&amp;D work requiring collaboration between the eligible enterprise or institution and an enterprise or institution in the Mainland, Macao or Taiwan;</p> <p>(ii) sourcing of essential materials or equipment which are required to sustain the technological R&amp;D work carried out in Hong Kong by the eligible enterprise or institution; or</p> <p>(iii) overseeing the operations of the eligible enterprise or institution's research facility(ies) in the Mainland, Macao or Taiwan</p>	
<p>26. Certified public accountants (practising), partners, directors or employees of practice units registered with the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants under the Professional Accountants Ordinance (Cap. 50), who are required to travel to the Mainland to conduct audit work for companies listed on a recognized stock market (as defined by section 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 1 to the Securities and Futures Ordinance (Cap. 571)) and having Mainland operations, to assist those companies to fulfil their obligations under relevant Ordinances or other regulatory instruments that govern the operation of the companies or their business</p>	(b)
<p>27. Directors of the companies listed on Stock Exchange of Hong Kong (SEHK) or directors of companies applying for listing on SEHK ("listing applicants") who are on duty travel from Mainland to Hong Kong, or return from duty travel in the Mainland to Hong Kong. The purpose of such duty travel is recognized by SEHK as essential to the operation of the listed companies or listing applicants. Specified duties include:</p> <p>(i) travelling to Hong Kong from the Mainland to attend shareholders' meetings of listed companies held in Hong Kong (including Annual General Meetings, Extraordinary General Meetings and Special General Meetings);</p> <p>(ii) travelling to Hong Kong from the Mainland to attend the hearings held by the HKEX including listing hearings, disciplinary hearings and review hearings; and</p>	(b)

<sup>i</sup> (HKSTPC) or Cyberport which conducts technological R&D work

Designations	Criteria <sup>i</sup>
<b>A. Categories of persons</b>	
(iii) returning to Hong Kong after travelling to the Mainland for attending shareholders' meetings of Hong Kong-listed companies (including Annual General Meetings, Extraordinary General Meetings and Special General Meetings)	
28. Directors or executives of companies listed on the SEHK and included in the Hang Seng Index, Hang Seng China Enterprises Index or Hang Seng Composite LargeCap, MidCap or SmallCap Index who travel from the Mainland to Hong Kong, or return from the Mainland to Hong Kong for essential business activities	(b)
29. Logistics, Port and/or Shipping Business Activities in the Mainland: (a) either the owner of an enterprise with a valid business registration certificate issued under the Business Registration Ordinance (Cap. 310) and having an operating base relating to logistics, port and/or shipping business in the Mainland, and up to one person employed and so authorised by the enterprise; or  (b) up to two persons employed and so authorised by such an enterprise as described in (a)	(b)
30. (a) up to two personnel who are either the owner and/or the employees of a vegetable farm, or hydroponic farm, or flower farm or plant nursery, or livestock farm, or fish farm which is engaged in the production of agricultural and fisheries products for supply to Hong Kong, and that such persons have to travel to the Mainland or Taiwan - (i) for overseeing the operation of the farm; or (ii) for procuring necessary inputs for agricultural and fisheries production; or  (b) Up to two personnel who are either the owner and /or the employees of a fishing vessel / fish collector vessel which is engaged in operation in the Mainland waters for supply of fisheries products to Hong Kong and such persons have to travel to the Mainland for – (i) handling matters related to the vessel or its operation such as inspection/maintenance of the vessel, application for a licence / permit for the vessel or any matters related to its operation; or (ii) procuring equipment onboard for meeting operational needs; or	(a)(i), (b)

Designations	Criteria <sup>i</sup>
<b>A. Categories of persons</b>	
(c) up to two personnel of each local agricultural and fisheries trade association who have to attend meetings convened by government bodies of the Mainland to support industry exchanges or development in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Greater Bay Area	
31. Hong Kong residents who reside in the Mainland and have been enrolled at Secondary 3 to Secondary 5 levels in schools registered under the Education Ordinance (Cap. 279) in Hong Kong, and who have to enter Hong Kong from the Mainland for the purpose of receiving secondary education <sup>viii</sup>	(a)(iv)
32. Personnel of the companies or organisations for the supply of COVID-19 testing services in Hong Kong	(a)(iii), (b)
33. (a) Senior management (up to two members only) designated and authorised by an enterprise with a valid Air Operator's Certificate issued by the Civil Aviation Department under the Air Navigation (Hong Kong) Order 1995 (Cap. 448C); and  (b) Senior management of the Airport Authority Hong Kong	(b)

<sup>i</sup> As stipulated under section 4(1) of the **Regulation**, the Chief Secretary for Administration may designate any person or category of persons from the above if he is satisfied that –

(a) the person's or persons' entry into Hong Kong—

(i) is necessary for the supply of goods or services required for the normal operation of Hong Kong or the daily needs of the people of Hong Kong;

(ii) is necessary for governmental operation;

(iii) is necessary for the protection of the safety or health of the people of Hong Kong or the handling of the public health emergency within the meaning of section 8(5) of the Ordinance concerning the specified disease;

(iv) is necessary for the person's or persons' receiving nursery, kindergarten, primary or secondary education at any school registered under the Education Ordinance (Cap. 279) in Hong Kong or for the provision of such education;

(v) is necessary for the safe travelling of any person for the purposes mentioned in subparagraph (iv); or

(vi) because of the exceptional circumstances of the case, otherwise serves the public interest of Hong Kong;

or

(b) the person's or persons' travelling is necessary for purposes relating to manufacturing operations, business activities or provision of professional services in the interest of Hong Kong's economic development.”.

<sup>ii</sup> Passenger crew and freight crew are combined in to one category w.e.f. 25 March 2020.

<sup>iii</sup> Exemption of compulsory quarantine and crew change for goods vessels without cargo operation has been suspended w.e.f. 29 July 2020 until the local epidemic situation is contained.

<sup>iv</sup> Exemption of compulsory quarantine and crew change for passenger ships has been suspended w.e.f. 29 July 2020 until the local epidemic situation is contained.

<sup>v</sup> Renamed from “experts or personnel of the academic sectors who are engaged in research and provide advice in combating the novel coronavirus infection” w.e.f. 25 Mar 2020.

<sup>vi</sup> Renamed to remove the 50-person-limit w.e.f. 25 Jun 2020

<sup>vii</sup> Renamed w.e.f. 25 Jun 2020

<sup>viii</sup> Exemption from compulsory quarantine for cross-boundary students in the 2019/20 school year has ended on 17 July 2020.

**Compulsory Quarantine of Persons Arriving at Hong Kong from Foreign  
Places Regulation (Cap. 599E)  
Designations for exemption by CS under section (4)(1)**

Designations	Criteria <sup>i</sup>
<b>A. Categories of persons</b>	
1. Crew members of aircrafts who need to commute to and from foreign places for performance of necessary duties	(a)(i)
2. Crew members of goods vessels <sup>ii</sup>	(a)(i), (b)
3. Crew members of passenger ships <sup>iii</sup>	(b)
4. Government officials carrying out governmental duties	(a)(ii)
5. Public officers at or above the level of Executive Directors (or equivalent) in the Hong Kong Monetary Authority, the Securities and Futures Commission and the Insurance Authority undertaking international obligations and/or participating in international cooperation pursuant to their regulatory function	(a)(ii)
6. Construction personnel tasked to carry out off-site duties in foreign places that are essential and cannot be replaced by other means to ensure the quality, integrity and statutory compliance of services or components to be used in government projects in Hong Kong	(a)(i)
7. Experts, personnel of the academic sectors or of international authorities who are engaged in research and/or provide advice in combating the COVID-19 infection to the HKSAR Government	(a)(iii)
8. Staff and personnel of public bodies and their partners for the supply of wristbands and related materials for home quarantine	(a)(i),(a)(iii)
9. Personnel of public bodies and their partners, agencies, companies or organisations for the supply to Hong Kong of personal protective equipment (PPE) or materials / equipment for the production of PPE	(a)(i),(a)(iii)
10. (a) Senior management (up to two members only) designated and authorised by an enterprise with a valid Air Operator's Certificate issued by the Civil Aviation Department under the Air Navigation (Hong Kong) Order 1995 (Cap. 448C); and  (b) Senior management of the Airport Authority Hong Kong	(b)

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- <sup>i</sup> As stipulated under section 4(1) of the **Regulation**, the Chief Secretary for Administration, may designate any person or category of persons from the above if he is satisfied that the person's or persons' entry into Hong Kong –
- a. the person's or persons' entry into Hong Kong –
    - i. is necessary for the supply of goods or services required for the normal operation of Hong Kong or the daily needs of the people of Hong Kong;
    - ii. is necessary for governmental operation;
    - iii. is necessary for the protection of the safety or health of the people of Hong Kong or the handling of the public health emergency within the meaning of section 8(5) of the Ordinance concerning the specified disease; or
    - iv. because of the exceptional circumstances of the case, otherwise serves the public interest of Hong Kong; or
  - b. the person's or persons' travelling is necessary for purposes relating to manufacturing operations, business activities or the provision of professional services in the interest of Hong Kong's economic development.
- <sup>ii</sup> Exemption of compulsory quarantine and crew change for goods vessels without cargo operation has been suspended w.e.f. 29 July 2020 until the local epidemic situation is contained.
- <sup>iii</sup> Exemption of compulsory quarantine and crew change for passenger ships has been suspended w.e.f. 29 July 2020 until the local epidemic situation is contained.



## Annex C

### Current and Projected Provision of Quarantine Facilities (As at 21 August 2020)

Quarantine Centres	Current capacity	Projected additional capacity	Projected total capacity (as of Dec 2020)
Junior Police Call Permanent Activity Centre	198 units	-	198 units
CYE Blocks 1 to 3	1 533 units	-	1 533 units
Sai Kung Outdoor Recreation Centre	99 units	-	99 units
Penny's Bay QC	800 units	700 units [Sep 2020] 2 000 units [Dec 2020]	3 500 units
<b>Total</b>	<b>2 630 units</b>	<b>2 700 units</b> [Dec 2020]	<b>5 330 units</b> <b>3 797 units</b> [Without CYE]

RCHE/RCHD quarantine facilities	Current capacity	Projected additional capacity	Projected total capacity
Jockey Club PHAB Camp	40 beds	-	40 beds
Helping Hand Cheung Muk Tau Holiday Centre for the Elderly*	60 units	-	60 units
AWE	228 beds	412 beds [Sep 2020]	640 beds
<b>Total</b>	<b>328 beds</b>	<b>412 beds</b> [Sep 2020]	<b>740 beds</b>

\* Another 40 beds available for non-close contact RCHE/RCHD residents

## Annex D

### Current and Projected Provision of Isolation and Treatment Facilities (As at 21 August 2020)

Quarantine Centres	Current capacity	Projected additional capacity	Projected total capacity (as of Dec 2020)
Tier 1 isolation beds	Around 1 270 beds <sup>1</sup>	-	Around 1 270 beds <sup>1</sup>
Tier 2 isolation beds	500 beds	around 160 beds [Aug 2020]	around 660 beds
Community Treatment Facilities	900 beds	1 000 beds [Sep 2020]	1 900 beds
Community Isolation Facilities	600 beds	-	600 beds
Temporary hospital	-	800 – 1 000 beds [Dec 2020]	800 – 1 000 beds
<b>Total</b>	<b>3 270 beds</b>	<b>1 960 – 2 160 beds</b> [Dec 2020]	<b>5 230 – 5 430 beds</b>

<sup>1</sup> Another 150 Tier-1 isolation beds are temporarily suspended due to hospital redevelopment project and renovation.

## Annex E

### Requirements imposed by the Secretary for Food and Health under Cap. 599F, Cap. 599G and Cap. 599I (19 August to 25 August 2020)

Cap. 599F	Requirements
<p><b>Catering business premises</b> selling or supplying food or drink for consumption on the premises of the business</p>	<p><b>(I) Save for specific premises (at <u>Appendix 1</u>), ceasing of selling food and drinks for consumption on premises during specified period</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Selling or supplying food or drink for consumption on the premises of any catering business must be ceased from 6.00pm to 4.59am of the subsequent day</li> <li>b. Any premises, or part of the premises, on which food or drink is sold or supplied by the business for consumption on the premises must be closed from 6.00pm to 4.59am of the subsequent day</li> </ol> <p><b>(II) Measures Required on the Premises</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>c. Must wear mask at all times, except when eating/drinking</li> <li>d. Screen body temperature</li> <li>e. Provide hand sanitiser</li> <li>f. Tables 1.5m apart or effectively partitioned</li> <li>g. Must not exceed 50% of normal seating capacity</li> <li>h. No more than 2 persons each table</li> <li>i. A notice should be put up at the entrance to any catering premises to remind customers that food or drink should not be consumed in areas adjacent to that catering premises when consumption of food or drink on that premise is not allowed</li> </ol> <p><b>(III) Suspension of Activities</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>j. No live performance and dancing</li> <li>k. Suspend karaoke and mahjong-tin kau activities</li> </ol> <p><b>(IV) Closure of Premises</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>l. Any premises (commonly known as bar or pub) that is exclusively or mainly used for the sale or supply of intoxicating liquors for consumption in that premises must be closed</li> <li>m. Any part of a catering business premise that is exclusively or mainly used for the sale or supply of intoxicating liquors for consumption in that part must be closed</li> </ol>
<p><b>Scheduled premises<sup>1</sup></b></p>	<p>Close amusement game centres, bathhouses, fitness centres, places of amusement, places of public entertainment, party rooms, beauty parlours, clubs or nightclubs, karaoke establishments, mahjong-tin kau premises, massage establishments<sup>2</sup>, sports premises and swimming pools</p>
<p><b>Scheduled premises: club-houses</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. save for catering premises therein, club-houses must be closed</li> <li>b. catering premises in club-houses must follow the directions set out for catering premises</li> </ol>

<sup>1</sup> Save for scheduled premises designated by the Chief Secretary for Administration in accordance with Section 9A of Cap. 599F. A list of such premises is set out at Appendix 2.

<sup>2</sup> Premises excluded is at Appendix 3.

<b>Cap. 599G</b>	<b>Requirements</b>
<b>Group gatherings of more than 2 persons</b>	Prohibited in public places unless exempted <sup>3</sup>
<b>Cap. 599I</b>	<b>Requirements</b>
<b>Mask-wearing requirement</b>	<p>A person must wear a mask at all times when</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. the person is boarding or onboard a public transport carrier; or</li> <li>b. is entering or present in an MTR paid area; or</li> <li>c. is entering or present in an indoor or outdoor public place</li> </ul>

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<sup>3</sup> Save for gatherings permitted by the Chief Secretary for Administration in accordance with section 5 of Cap. 599G. There are currently no such exemptions in force.

## **Appendix 1**

### **Catering business exempted from the requirement to cease selling or supplying food or drink for consumption on the premises of the business**

#### **(1) Premises set out in Schedule 1 to Cap. 599F and the interpretation**

1. Hospital (a hospital within the meaning of section 4 of the Private Healthcare Facilities Ordinance (Cap. 633) or The Prince Philip Dental Hospital)
2. Residential care home ((a) a residential care home in respect of which a licence, or a certificate of exemption, as defined by section 2 of the Residential Care Homes (Elderly Persons) Ordinance (Cap. 459) issued or renewed under that Ordinance is in force; or (b) a residential care home for persons with disabilities in respect of which a licence, or a certificate of exemption, as defined by section 2 of the Residential Care Homes (Persons with Disabilities) Ordinance (Cap. 613) issued or renewed under that Ordinance is in force)
3. Treatment centre (a treatment centre within the meaning of the Drug Dependent Persons Treatment and Rehabilitation Centres (Licensing) Ordinance (Cap. 566) in respect of which a licence or a certificate of exemption under that Ordinance is in force)
4. Boarding school (a boarding school within the meaning of the Education Regulations (Cap. 279A))
5. Premises controlled or managed by the Government
6. Premises that have been constructed to be used, and are used, as a private dwelling

#### **(2) Catering business with exemption granted by the Chief Secretary for Administration**

1. Business catering for the operation and development of Hong Kong International Airport and aviation industry
2. Staff canteens of MTR Corporation Limited
3. Staff canteens of franchised bus companies
4. Staff canteens of tunnel operators and franchisees
5. Staff canteens of terminal operators in the Kwai Tsing Container Terminal, River Trade Terminal, Chu Kong River Trade Terminal and China Merchant Wharf
6. Catering service at the Hong Kong Sports Institute

7. Business catering for staff on power companies' premises
8. Business catering for staff inside waste management facilities
9. Welfare services, both day and residential, for persons with disabilities, elderly, children and youth, and other disadvantaged groups run by non-governmental organisations, both day and residential services, which provide meals or food and drinks on premises
10. Business in the premises of the Offices set up by the Central People's Government in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
11. Canteens provided in any work place (other than a factory canteen for persons employed in any factory in that factory building) for the use exclusively of the persons employed in the work place and catering businesses during meal break of their employees

The above catering businesses exempted by the Chief Secretary for Administration must strictly comply with limits on number of persons and capacity, and other relevant infection control requirements, which would be reviewed by the Government from time to time and tightened where necessary.

## Appendix 2

**Scheduled premises or category of scheduled premises designated by the Chief Secretary for Administration for exemption according to section 9A of the Prevention and Control of Disease (Requirements and Directions) (Business and Premises) Regulation (Cap. 599F)**

*Sports premises and swimming pools exempted from closure*

1. The Hong Kong Sports Institute
2. The Hong Kong Velodrome *Note 1*
3. Shun Lee Tsuen Sports Centre *Note 1*
4. Sun Yat Sen Memorial Park Sports Centre *Note 2*
5. Other sports premises and swimming pools under the jurisdiction of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department *Note 3*

Remarks:

Note 1: To be opened for the exclusive use of sports training by elite athletes of the Hong Kong Sports Institute (HKSI) only.

Note 2: To be opened for the exclusive use of BGI to set up its temporary air-inflated laboratory for the purpose of the Community Testing Scheme only.

Note 3: To be opened for the exclusive use of COVID-19-related functions only.

**Premises excluded from massage establishments**

- (a) a hospital or maternity home maintained by the HKSAR Government or registered under the Hospitals, Nursing Homes and Maternity Homes Registration Ordinance (Cap. 165)
- (b) a military hospital or a maternity home of the Hong Kong Garrison
- (c) an establishment for medical treatment operated by a medical practitioner registered under the Medical Registration Ordinance (Cap. 161)
- (d) an establishment for physiotherapy operated by a physiotherapist registered under the Supplementary Medical Professions Ordinance (Cap. 359)
- (e) the premises for practising Chinese medicine operated by a registered Chinese medicine practitioner or listed Chinese medicine practitioner as defined in section 2 of the Chinese Medicine Ordinance (Cap. 549)
- (f) the premises for chiropractic operated by a chiropractor registered under the Chiropractors Registration Ordinance (Cap. 428)