

立法會

Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(2)1455/19-20

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Background brief prepared by the Legislative Council Secretariat for the special House Committee meeting on 28 August 2020

The Government's overall efforts and the relevant measures to combat COVID-19

Purpose

This paper summarizes the views and concerns of Members of the Legislative Council ("LegCo") on the Administration's efforts and the relevant measures to combat coronavirus disease 2019 ("COVID-19") including the measures to assist enterprises and the public affected by the epidemic.

Background

2. The outbreak of novel coronavirus was first detected in Wuhan of Hubei Province in December 2019 and has since been spreading globally. On 11 March 2020, the World Health Organization declared that the outbreak of COVID-19 as a pandemic. Locally, the Government launched the Preparedness and Response Plan for Novel Infectious Disease of Public Health Significance ("the Plan") on 4 January 2020, under which a three-tier response level, namely Alert, Serious and Emergency, is adopted. Based on the assessment that the risk of health impact caused by the disease on the local population is high and imminent, the response level under the Plan has been raised to the Emergency Level on 25 January 2020. The Hospital Authority ("HA") announced on the same day the activation of Emergency Response Level in public hospitals. As of 26 August 2020, the Centre for Health Protection of the Department of Health ("DH") recorded a total of 4 734 confirmed cases and one probable case of COVID-19. Among these cases, 469 were still hospitalized or pending for admission, 4 161 were discharged and 78 were fatal cases.

3. The Administration has been taking a variety of anti-epidemic measures at the community level to achieve social distancing and contain the public health risk. Border control and social distancing measures, implemented by a number of Regulations made under the Prevention and Control of Disease Ordinance (Cap. 599), have been taken and remain in force. Having regard to the impact of these measures on the livelihood of individuals and business operation, the Government obtained the approval of the Finance Committee ("FC") on 21 February 2020 for a commitment of \$30 billion to set up the Anti-epidemic Fund ("AEF").¹ Subsequently, in the 2020-2021 Budget, the Financial Secretary announced a whole range of measures to support enterprises, safeguard jobs and relieve people's burden, involving about \$120 billion.² The Administration's financial proposal to provide additional relief measures was approved by FC on 18 April 2020 which involved an estimated funding of \$137.5 billion.³

Members' views and concerns

4. The views and concerns expressed by LegCo Members on the subject at various meetings of LegCo and its committees are summarized in the ensuing paragraphs.

Immigration control measures and quarantine arrangements

5. Members noted that under 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), all persons arriving at Hong Kong from the Mainland, Macao or Taiwan or having stayed in the Mainland, Macao or Taiwan during the 14 days before the date of arrival, and all persons arriving from a place outside China as specified by the Secretary for Food and Health or having stayed in such a place during the 14 days before the date of arrival had once been subject to a 14-day compulsory quarantine. In June 2020, a two-tier regime under which the compulsory quarantine requirement applied to persons arriving at Hong Kong from a Category 1 specified place, and did not apply to persons arriving at Hong Kong from a Category 2 specified place if they met certain conditions (such as having a negative COVID-19 test result) was introduced under the above two Regulations to allow for the imposition or lifting of different quarantine or other infection control safeguards according to the respective public health risks level of different places.

¹ The 24 measures launched by AEF in February 2020 are set out in paragraph 12 of LC Paper No. FCR(2019-20)46.

² For details, please refer to Enclosure B to LC Paper No. FCR(2020-21)2.

³ For details, please refer to paragraphs 20 to 28 of LC Paper No. FCR(2020-21)2.

6. Members also noted that under the above two Regulations, the Chief Secretary for Administration ("CS") was empowered to designate any person or category of persons to be exempted from the quarantine requirement if certain criteria were satisfied.⁴ With the local epidemic situation undergoing drastic changes from having no confirmed local cases in 21 consecutive days in mid-June 2020 to identifying 31 new cases without travel history during the incubation period from 2 to 8 July 2020, some Members considered that the new wave of the epidemic was caused by the above exemption arrangement as the persons so exempted were not mandated to undergo viral testing upon arrival.

7. The Administration advised that starting from 8 July 2020, all persons exempted from quarantine entering Hong Kong by air had to proceed to DH's Temporary Specimen Collection Centre to have their deep throat saliva samples collected, or to collect their samples at home and return it according to instructions. As air crew and sea crew members made up the largest group of exempted persons, they would be required to have their deep throat saliva samples collected at the Centre to further lower the chance of the virus spreading in Hong Kong. Besides, the exempted person would be subject to medical surveillance arranged by DH for a period of 14 days.

8. Members noted that all asymptomatic inbound travellers arriving at the Hong Kong International Airport would be mandated to immediately proceed to DH's Temporary Specimen Collection Centre to collect their deep throat saliva samples at the venue and wait for the viral test results at the Centre. Only those who were tested negative could go home or to a designated place to continue completion of the compulsory quarantine.

⁴ The criteria to be satisfied under the two Regulations are 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; 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. Two additional criteria are provided for under the Compulsory Quarantine of Certain Persons Arriving at Hong Kong Regulation: the person's or persons' entry into Hong Kong (a) 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; or (b) is necessary for the safe travelling of any person for the above purposes.

Quarantine facilities

9. Members noted that Lei Yue Mun Park and Holiday Village, Junior Police Call Permanent Activity Centre, Sai Kung Outdoor Recreation Centre and Chun Yeung Estate had been used as quarantine centres. On the arrangement that inbound travellers, regardless of whether they were Hong Kong residents, were permitted to serve their quarantine at home or other self-nominated places in order to maintain the capacity of the quarantine centres to cope with the requirements for close contacts of confirmed cases and occasional clusters, Members expressed concern about the health risks arising from persons under home quarantine given the small living area per capita in Hong Kong. For persons who were quarantined in a self-nominated place other than residential homes, say, hotels, there was at present no requirement for these persons to alert the hotels concerned that they were under compulsory quarantine.

10. Many Members were concerned that prospective tenants who had accepted the advance housing offer of Chun Yeung Estate had experienced serious inconvenience or problems due to the deferred intake arising from the Administration's use of the Estate as a temporary quarantine centre since February 2020. They called on the Administration to announce a timetable for ceasing the use of Chun Yeung Estate as quarantine centre to enable the prospective tenants of the Estate to plan ahead their arrangements for moving in.

11. The Administration had announced on 26 June 2020 that the use of the quarantine centre at Chun Yeung Estate would cease in end-July 2020 and the fourth and fifth blocks of the Estate had already been vacated in the second half of June 2020 for the carrying out of restoration works. Subsequently, the Administration had advised at the special House Committee ("HC") meeting on July 15 2020 that as prospective tenants of the Estate would move in by two batches, the units in the second batch for which the intake of prospective tenants would start from end-October 2020 could continue to be used as quarantine facilities until mid-August 2020 where necessary. Besides, the Administration expected that 800 more quarantine units would be provided at a government site at Penny's Bay, which would be put into use in end-July 2020. Excluding the quarantine units in Chun Yeung Estate, there would be a total of about 1 500 units (about 3 000 beds) in Hong Kong by that time. In addition, 700 more quarantine units were expected to be available by September 2020 at a site at Penny's Bay reserved for future tourism development.

Implementation of "Hong Kong Health Code" system

12. At various HC meetings held in June and early July 2020, Members expressed concern about the implementation date of the "Hong Kong Health Code" system to facilitate the cross-border flow of people between Hong Kong, Guangdong and Macao. Although the mutual recognition arrangement was pushed back in view of the upsurge of COVID-19 epidemic in Hong Kong in recent months, Members considered that the Administration should continue with the preparatory work so that the pilot scheme could be rolled out at the earliest once the epidemic had eased. Members were in general of the view that apart from considering the needs of those people who were on official duty or business travel, the Administration should also provide assistance to people who had a genuine or urgent need to travel between Hong Kong and the Mainland (e.g. visiting their families, going to work, seeking medical consultation, and attending funerals, etc.).

13. The Administration advised that discussions between the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region ("HKSAR") Government and the governments of the Guangdong Province and Macao SAR respectively were close to completion. However, in view of the recent severe epidemic situation, the Administration was of the view that it might not be an appropriate time to launch the pilot scheme on mutual recognition of "Health Code".

Viral testing capacity and community surveillance for COVID-19

14. Members were concerned about whether and, if so, how the Administration would enhance its viral testing capacity for COVID-19. The Administration advised that given the limited testing capacity, it would focus on performing targeted tests on those high-risk groups involved in the community cluster cases. The Administration also welcomed any efforts, including those from the Mainland and the private sector, to enhance Hong Kong's overall testing capability. A case in point was the engagement of three private institutions to take over the large-scale community testing for the designated high-risk groups, including staff members of residential care homes for the elderly ("RCHEs"), residential care homes for persons with disabilities ("RCHDs") as well as nursing homes; staff members of restaurants; and taxi drivers.

15. Members suggested that the Administration should procure services from the University of Hong Kong-Shenzhen Hospital, which had indicated that it could carry out 3 000 viral tests a day for Hong Kong, to enhance its testing capacity so as to identify the silent or sub-clinical transmission chains prevalent in the community. The Administration was also suggested to seriously

consider making bulk procurement of test kits from the Mainland with a view to lowering the test charges here. Some Members suggested that the Administration should consider providing viral test to all Hong Kong citizens and seeking assistance from the Mainland, e.g. by assigning the Mainland experts to come to Hong Kong to carry out such work and sending specimens taken in Hong Kong for testing in laboratories on the Mainland, etc.

Maintaining social distancing

16. Members noted that the Prevention and Control of Disease (Requirements and Directions) (Business and Premises) Regulation (Cap. 599F) and the Prevention and Control of Disease (Prohibition on Group Gathering) Regulation (Cap. 599G) were made under the Prevention and Control of Disease Ordinance (Cap. 599) on 27 and 28 March 2020 respectively. The former imposed temporary measures on catering business and scheduled premises⁵, whereas the latter prohibited certain group gatherings in public place. Some Members asked about the circumstance under which the social distancing measures imposed under the two Regulations would be lifted to enable the catering business and scheduled premises to resume businesses and social activities. The Administration advised that under the "suppress and lift" strategy for striking an appropriate balance amongst the aspects of public health, economic development and daily operation of society, it would continue to closely monitor the epidemic situation and review the various measures in place with a view to suitably adjusting them taking into account all relevant factors including the number of confirmed cases in Hong Kong and around the globe.

Anti-epidemic Fund

Scope of AEF and amounts of subsidies

17. Members expressed concerns about the limited scope of AEF and urged the Administration to extend assistance to those sectors which were not covered by AEF but also badly hit by COVID-19 or affected by anti-epidemic measures.⁶ Some Members queried that most of the beneficiaries were enterprises/employers and there was lack of targeted assistance for employees (especially low-income earners, self-employed persons and freelancers) and the unemployed. Some Members raised doubts on whether the respective amounts

⁵ Under section 2 of the Prevention and Control of Disease (Requirements and Directions) (Business and Premises) Regulation, "scheduled premises" meant any premises set out in Part 1 of Schedule 2 to the Regulation.

⁶ For instance, the classification of "retail business" under the Retail Sector Subsidy Scheme did not catch all retail business, and the Food Licence Holders Subsidy Scheme applied only to holders of eight types of food business licences.

of subsidy for the selected sectors under AEF would suffice to relieve them from the severe impact of the epidemic.⁷

18. The Administration advised that as the fight against the epidemic continued, the Administration would identify further measures to support other needy sectors/individuals, taking into account their unique circumstances and needs. Besides, the Administration would maintain close communication with various industries on how best to help them tide over the hard times.

*Employment Support Scheme ("ESS")*⁸

19. Members observed that employers applying for subsidy under ESS must have been making Mandatory Provident Fund ("MPF") contributions and must undertake not to implement redundancy during the subsidy period. They expressed concerns that the scheme failed to benefit employees without MPF contributions (including those aged 65 or above without MPF contributions), freelancers, employees on no-pay leave and those who were already unemployed. They also cast doubt on whether the scheme could ensure the continued employment of employees as employers could abuse the scheme by merely maintaining the same headcount. In addition, the scheme did not prescribe any requirements on the internal allocation of subsidies among different employees, nor could it prevent employers from replacing employees, cutting salary expenses, asking employees to take no-pay leave or turning full-time staff into part-time ones.

20. When discussing ESS and unemployment support measures at the special meeting of the Panel on Manpower on 7 July 2020, some Members pointed out that although employers participating in ESS were required to provide an undertaking that they would not implement redundancies during the subsidy period and would spend all the wage subsidies on paying wages to their employees, the committed headcount of paid employees of some 150 employers was zero as shown from the list of participating employers published by the ESS Secretariat in early July 2020. These Members took the view that the Administration should seriously consider providing direct wage subsidies to the employees concerned and unemployment cash assistance for the unemployed.

⁷ For instance, Members queried the adequacy of the \$20,000 subsidy for each registered owner of licensed cross-boundary coach, \$80,000 subsidy per licensed travel agent and \$7,500 relief grant for each instructor, coach, trainer or operator of interest classes engaged by a school.

⁸ ESS, being one of the measures implemented under AEF, involves a total funding of about \$81 billion. The amount of subsidy for an employer would be calculated on the basis of 50% of the actual wages paid to employees at a specified month (i.e. any one month from January to March 2020 to be nominated by the employer), with a wage cap at \$18,000 per month (i.e. maximum subsidy is \$9,000 per month per employee) for six months.

21. According to the Administration, the objective underpinning the design of ESS was to allow flexibility for employers to, having regard to the circumstances of their business, choose a particular month with larger number of employees and higher staff expenses as the "specified month", so as to maximize the amount of wage subsidies to be received. This enabled employers to retain existing employees, pay wages to employees who had been put on no-pay leave, re-hire employees or even hire new employees having regard to the needs of their businesses. Furthermore, the ESS Secretariat would proactively follow up on reports of employers who had abused or violated the conditions of ESS. The cases would be referred to relevant enforcement departments for further follow-up if necessary.

22. In view of the large number of unsuccessful applications, some Members considered that the Administration should review expeditiously the eligibility criteria and effectiveness of ESS in helping self-employed persons. Members noted that employees aged 65 or above who had MPF accounts would not be covered under ESS if their employers had not made any voluntary contributions for these employees. Some Members considered that for those employers who had not got wage subsidies for their employees aged 65 or above, such employees should be excluded from the employers' undertaking on the committed headcount of paid employees on the payroll. Some other Members took the view that as most employees aged 65 or above were usually engaged in the low-pay sectors, these employees should be covered under the second tranche of ESS.

Job Creation Scheme

23. When discussing AEF 2.0: Job Creation Scheme and Matching Grant Scheme for Skills Upgrading at the meeting of the Panel on Public Service on 10 July 2020, Members urged the Administration to expedite the recruitment of the 30 000 time-limited jobs (normally up to 12 months) provided under the Job Creation Scheme, of which around 13 500 were government jobs and around 1 000 were non-governmental Fintech-related positions. Members also called on the Administration to provide more job positions with lower academic requirements for the grass-root population. According to the Administration, as at end-June 2020, 700 positions had been filled while the recruitment for around 7 000 positions was on-going. The Administration further advised that around 8 700 time-limited government jobs and 900 non-government positions created under the AEF measures were suitable for grass-root candidates.

Support measures to assist small and medium enterprises ("SMEs")

24. Members supported the Administration's funding proposal to introduce a new 100% loan guarantee product under the SME Financing Guarantee Scheme ("SFGS")⁹. Some Members urged the Administration to streamline the relevant procedures and requirements, including the requirement of collaterals, so as to expedite the funding process, and to step up promotion of SFGS to the banks, especially small to medium sized banks, to facilitate the smooth operation of SFGS. Some Members suggested shortening the one-year timeframe for cashflow projection required from the applicants of the Dedicated Fund on Branding, Upgrading and Domestic Sales to, say a quarter or even shorter. In addition to the relief measures rolled out to assist SMEs, some Members considered that the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau should, in collaboration with the health authorities and other Policy Bureaux, strive for restoration of cross-border ties with the Mainland by lifting border restrictions to facilitate the entry and exit of visitors which was a major source of revenue for the tourism-related industries.

25. Some Members considered the Administration's support measures for the tourism industry under AEF¹⁰ insufficient to support the travel trade which was struggling hard to survive. There was a suggestion that the Administration should consider making use of the Travel Industry Compensation Fund ("TICF") to provide travel agents with financial assistance. The Administration explained that TICF was established under section 32C of the Travel Agents Ordinance (Cap. 218) with the purpose of providing protection to outbound travellers. Making payment out of TICF to assist travel agents was not within the ambit of Cap. 218.

⁹ The Special 100% Guarantee Product is targeted at SMEs of all sectors. Enterprises holding a valid Business Registration Certificate for at least three months by end-December 2019, regardless of their business sectors, are welcome to apply. The maximum amount of loan per Business Registration Certificate (i.e. per business entity) under the Special 100% Guarantee Product is up to the total amount of employee wages and rents for six months per enterprise, or HK\$2 million at most.

¹⁰ The Administration rolled out a number of schemes in 2020 to support the tourism industry through two rounds of AEF, with total funding of \$1,360 million. The first round introduced the Travel Agents Subsidy Scheme to provide each travel agent with a one-off subsidy of \$80,000; and the second round introduced the Travel Agents and Practitioners Support Scheme to provide a one-off subsidy ranging from \$20,000 to \$200,000 to each travel agent (amount depending on the number of its employees), and to provide a monthly subsidy of \$5,000 for six months to each travel agent's staff member and freelance accredited tourist guide/tour escort.

Response measures of HA

26. In view of the already overloaded Accident and Emergency Departments of public hospitals and the healthcare manpower constraint of HA, Members were concerned about the surge capacity of HA to cope with the outbreak of the disease in the community. They were particularly concerned about the availability and operation of the 1 400-odd negative pressure isolation beds and the intensive care beds in public hospitals. There were suggestions that HA should consider converting the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre into makeshift hospital and retrofitting the wards not yet opened in the Hong Kong Children's Hospital, North Lantau Hospital and Tin Shui Wai Hospital into standard negative pressure wards to meet the inpatient need arising from the epidemic. In addition, repeated concerns had been raised over the stockpile of personal protective equipment ("PPE") for frontline healthcare personnel of public hospitals. There was also repeated concern about the inadequate provision of PPE for personnel providing non-emergency ambulance transfer services.

27. According to HA, the Central Commend Committee meeting had been convened and various measures had been implemented since January 2020 to cope with suspected cases.¹¹ HA had also retrofitted one to two general wards in each hospital cluster into standard negative pressure wards to provide more than 400 additional standard negative pressure beds for patients who were recovering but had not yet been confirmed negative for the virus. The highest standard negative pressure beds would be reserved for confirmed or suspected cases. HA would continue to monitor the situation and actively consider different plans for isolation facilities with a view to activating them as soon as possible when the need arose. To facilitate deployment of PPE and key linen items for each public hospital, designated contact points had been set up in each of the seven hospital clusters to answer internal enquiries concerning the supply of these items. The stockpile of PPE in July 2020 had resumed to the three month's consumption level.

28. Some Members urged the Administration to prescribe COVID-19 as an occupational disease under the Employees' Compensation Ordinance (Cap. 282) to safeguard the interests of employees involving close and frequent contacts with sources of COVID-19 infection arising from their employment in specified

¹¹ These measures included enhancing HA's laboratory service so that rapid test result could be available earlier to facilitate isolation or discharge arrangements; adjusting ventilation system to increase fresh air exchange in public hospitals and clinics; transferring stable patients to rehabilitation or convalescence wards, and in accordance to the agreement with two private hospitals transferring out patients for continuous treatment in order to vacate acute beds to meet emergency need; and exploring the feasibility to defer the elective surgeries and non-emergency services.

high-risk occupation, including healthcare staff. HA advised that while COVID-19 was currently not a compensable occupational disease prescribed under Cap. 282, section 36 of Cap. 282 stipulated that an employee contracting a disease not prescribed as an occupational disease might still claim compensation from the employer under Cap. 282 if it was an injury or death by accident arising out of and in the course of employment, and the employer was in general liable to pay compensation under Cap. 282.

Support measures for residential care homes

29. Referring to the emergence of confirmed cases in RCHEs for the first time in early July 2020, Members were concerned about the efforts made by the Administration to ensure that appropriate infection control measures had been put in place by RCHEs during the epidemic. They called on the Administration to address the not uncommon problem of residential care units to deploy their staff to work in more than one institution which increased the risk of cross-infection; the poor and crowded living environment of hostels for workers imported by residential care units under the Supplementary Labour Scheme.

30. The Administration advised that the Social Welfare Department ("SWD") would provide over 4 million surgical masks to all RCHEs and RCHDs in mid-July 2020 for use by their residents in need. With the activation of the Hong Kong PHAB Association Jockey Club PHAB Camp as a quarantine centre for residents of the RCHE concerned who were close contacts of the confirmed cases and were bedridden or requiring special care during the 14-day quarantine period, SWD would arrange for care workers to attend to the needs of residents who needed to be admitted to this quarantine centre. The medical needs of these residents would be taken care of by DH and HA.

Support measures for the school sector and students

31. Due to the outbreak of COVID-19, classes at all schools in Hong Kong had been suspended since the Chinese New Year holidays. Members have made the following suggestions to assist the school sector and the students affected by the epidemic: (a) supporting kindergartens to tackle the current financial difficulty; (b) including school sponsoring bodies supplying lunchboxes under ESS; (c) providing more assistance to tutorial schools, instructors/coaches engaged by schools and relief grants to private education centres offering interest classes, music schools, playgroups, etc.; and (d) issuing guidelines to schools to advise them how to help students catch up to the relevant grade levels when class resumed. Members have also suggested that the Administration should provide more support measures for students from grass roots families in practising e-learning during and after the pandemic and

for students with special educational needs whose development was lagging behind as a result of the suspension of face to-face training and therapy services.

Latest developments

32. The Chief Executive ("CE") led six Principal Officials to hold a press conference on 21 August 2020 to review the development of the COVID-19 epidemic situation in Hong Kong, the anti-epidemic strategy and the future work priorities of the HKSAR Government.¹²

33. On 25 August 2020, the Government has announced that it will, unless the epidemic situation takes a sudden downturn, issue the latest directions and specifications before 28 August 2020 to relax social distancing measures in a gradual and orderly manner starting from that day.¹³

34. CS and relevant officials will attend the special HC meeting on 28 August 2020 to discuss with Members the Government's overall efforts and the relevant measures to combat COVID-19.

Relevant papers

35. A list of relevant papers on the LegCo website is in **Appendix I**. A list of relevant Members' questions raised at previous Council meetings is in **Appendix II**.

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
27 August 2020

¹² For the presentation materials presented by CE at the press conference, please refer to LC Paper No. CB(2)1452/19-20(02). For the opening remarks of CE at the press conference, please refer to: <https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202008/21/P2020082100923.htm>.

¹³ For details of these measures, please refer to the Government's press release: <https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202008/25/P2020082500904.htm>.

Appendix I

Relevant papers on Government's efforts and measures to combat coronavirus disease 2019 ("COVID-19")

| Committee | Date of meeting | Relevant papers |
|--------------------------------|--|---|
| Panel on Health Services | 10.1.2020 (Item IV) | Agenda Minutes |
| | 30.1.2020 (Item I) | Agenda Minutes |
| Finance Committee | 21.2.2020 (Item 1) | Paper provided by the Administration on a new commitment of \$30 billion for injection into the Anti-epidemic Fund Minutes of the first meeting Minutes of the second meeting |
| Panel on Welfare Services | 9.3.2020 (Item III) | Agenda Minutes |
| Panel on Health Services | 10.3.2020 (Item I) | Agenda |
| Panel on Commerce and Industry | 17.3.2020 (Item V) | Agenda Minutes |
| Panel on Health Services | 20.3.2020 (Item IV) | Agenda |
| | 8.4.2020 (Item I) | Agenda |
| Finance Committee | 9.4.2020 (Seventh meeting to examine the Estimates of Expenditure | Administration's replies to Members' initial written questions on Education Administration's replies to Members' supplementary written questions on Education |

| Committee | Date of meeting | Relevant papers |
|---|--|--|
| | 2020-2021 (session no. 18 - Education)) | Speaking note of the Secretary for Education Minutes |
| | 17 and 18.4.2020 (Item 1) | Paper provided by the Administration on the implementation of a package of support measures involving a total estimated expenditure of \$137.5 billion for individuals and businesses impacted by COVID-19 and other relevant measures |
| Panel on Health Services | 24.4.2020 (Item III) | Agenda |
| | 8.5.2020 (Item III) | Agenda |
| Panel on Commerce and Industry | 19.5.2020 (Item IV) | Agenda Minutes |
| Joint Subcommittee on Long-term Care Policy | 19.5.2020 (Item I) | Agenda Minutes |
| Panel on Manpower | 19.5.2020 (Item III) | Agenda |
| Panel on Economic Development | 25.5.2020 (Item IV) | Agenda Minutes |
| House Committee | 12.6.2020 (Item II) | Agenda Minutes |

| Committee | Date of meeting | Relevant papers |
|--|-------------------------|--|
| Joint meeting of the Panel on Economic Development and Panel on Financial Affairs | 19.6.2020 (Item II) | Agenda |
| House Committee | 19.6.2020 (Item II) | Agenda Minutes |
| | 26.6.2020 (Item II) | Agenda Minutes |
| | 3.7.2020 (Item II) | Agenda Minutes |
| Panel on Manpower | 7.7.2020 (Item I) | Agenda |
| Panel on Health Services | 10.7.2020 (Item II) | Agenda |
| Panel on Public Service | 10.7.2020 (Item III) | Agenda |
| House Committee | 10.7.2020 (Item II) | Agenda Minutes |
| Subcommittee on Subsidiary Legislation Relating to the Prevention and Control of Disease | — | First report of the Subcommittee submitted to HC (issued on 3.6.2020) Second report of the Subcommittee submitted to HC (issued on 10.6.2020) Third and final report of the Subcommittee submitted to HC meeting on 3.7.2020 |

**Questions raised by Members at previous Council meetings
concerning the Government's overall efforts and
the relevant measures to combat coronavirus disease-2019**

| Council meeting date | Raised by | Subject | Reply |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|---|------------------------------|
| 8.1.2020 | Hon Alice MAK | Issuing expeditiously guidelines on treating viral pneumonia | <u>Reply</u> |
| | Hon Elizabeth QUAT | Immediate measures to curb the spread of an epidemic in Hong Kong | <u>Reply</u> |
| | Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki | Enhancing the measures to cope with an epidemic outbreak | <u>Reply</u> |
| 19.2.2020 | Hon Alice MAK | Measures for tackling the novel coronavirus outbreak | <u>Reply</u> |
| | Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki | Measures for tackling the novel coronavirus outbreak | <u>Reply</u> |
| 26.2.2020 | Hon James TO | Supply of anti-epidemic items | <u>Reply</u> |
| | Dr Hon CHIANG Lai-wan | Issues relating to the novel coronavirus epidemic | <u>Reply</u> |
| 18.3.2020 | Hon KWONG Chun-yu | Tackling the novel coronavirus epidemic | <u>Reply</u> |
| | Hon Charles Peter MOK | Impacts of the novel coronavirus epidemic on Hong Kong | <u>Reply</u> |
| | Hon LAM Cheuk-ting | Supplies of anti-epidemic items | <u>Reply</u> |
| | Hon SHIU Ka-chun | Face masks produced by the Correctional Services Department | <u>Reply</u> |
| | Hon James TO | Hong Kong residents stranded on the Mainland | <u>Reply</u> |
| | Hon Elizabeth QUAT | Relief measures of the Government | <u>Reply</u> |
| | Hon HUI Chi-fung | Impacts of the epidemic on schools and parents of students | <u>Reply</u> |
| | Dr Hon Helena WONG | Supply of face masks to non-governmental organizations | <u>Reply</u> |
| | Hon WU Chi-wai | Issues relating to the novel coronavirus epidemic | <u>Reply</u> |

| Council meeting date | Raised by | Subject | Reply |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|--|------------------------------|
| 22.4.2020 | Hon Dennis KWOK | Personal protective equipment | <u>Reply</u> |
| | Hon CHAN Chun-ying | Long-term measures to tackle epidemics | <u>Reply</u> |
| | Hon Charles Peter MOK | Assisting children from grass-roots families in undertaking e-learning | <u>Reply</u> |
| | Hon CHAN Han-pan | Using Chinese medicine to prevent and treat the Coronavirus Disease 2019 | <u>Reply</u> |
| 29.4.2020 | Hon Alice MAK | Regulations made in respect of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 | <u>Reply</u> |
| | Hon WU Chi-wai | Anti-epidemic Fund relief measures | <u>Reply</u> |
| | Dr Hon Pierre CHAN | Protection for employees contracting Coronavirus Disease 2019 | <u>Reply</u> |
| | Hon Kenneth LEUNG | Compulsory quarantine at home | <u>Reply</u> |
| | Hon Holden CHOW | Relief measures implemented by the Government | <u>Reply</u> |
| 6.5.2020 | Hon Elizabeth QUAT | Relief measures under the Anti-epidemic Fund | <u>Reply</u> |
| | Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG | Assistance provided for the unemployed | <u>Reply</u> |
| | Dr Hon Pierre CHAN | Quarantine arrangements amid the Coronavirus Disease 2019 epidemic | <u>Reply</u> |
| 13.5.2020 | Hon Elizabeth QUAT | Online teaching and learning | <u>Reply</u> |
| | Hon Kenneth LAU | Local Mask Production Subsidy Scheme | <u>Reply</u> |
| | Hon CHAN Chi-chuen | Quarantine requirement for persons arriving at Hong Kong from the Mainland | <u>Reply</u> |
| 20.5.2020 | Hon Paul TSE | Relief measures of the Government | <u>Reply</u> |
| | Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki | Tackling the epidemic and related matters by the Hospital Authority | <u>Reply</u> |
| | Hon CHUNG Kwok-pan | Impacts of discarded face masks on the environment and ecology | <u>Reply</u> |

| Council meeting date | Raised by | Subject | Reply |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|---|------------------------------|
| 20.5.2020 | Dr Hon Priscilla LEUNG | Quarantine facilities | <u>Reply</u> |
| | Hon Charles Peter MOK | The reusable CuMask | <u>Reply</u> |
| | Hon Elizabeth QUAT | Arrangements for class resumption | <u>Reply</u> |
| | Prof Hon Joseph LEE | Provision of services by part-time and agency nurses | <u>Reply</u> |
| | Hon Starry LEE | Relief measures amid the Coronavirus Disease 2019 epidemic | <u>Reply</u> |
| 27.5.2020 | Hon HO Kai-ming | Assistance provided for the unemployed | <u>Reply</u> |
| | Hon Kenneth LEUNG | Relief measures | <u>Reply</u> |
| | Hon Charles Peter MOK | Privacy issues related to virus testing | <u>Reply</u> |
| | Hon CHAN Hak-kan | Impacts caused to the environment by anti-epidemic measures | <u>Reply</u> |
| | Hon WU Chi-wai | Business difficulty of the public light bus trade | <u>Reply</u> |
| 3.6.2020 | Hon Vincent CHENG | Support for the hotel and guesthouse industry | <u>Reply</u> |
| | Hon Charles Peter MOK | Application of technology in efforts to combat pandemic | <u>Reply</u> |
| | Hon Elizabeth QUAT | Provision of assistance for people not covered by relief measures | <u>Reply</u> |
| | Hon Andrew WAN | Using unoccupied public housing estates as quarantine facilities | <u>Reply</u> |
| 10.6.2020 | Hon SHIU Ka-fai | Employment Support Scheme | <u>Reply</u> |
| | Prof Hon Joseph LEE | N95 respirator fit tests | <u>Reply</u> |
| | | Special allowances for staff members of the Hospital Authority | <u>Reply</u> |
| | Hon Michael TIEN | Using the unoccupied Chun Yeung Estate as quarantine facilities | <u>Reply</u> |
| | Dr Hon CHIANG Lai-wan | Convalescent plasma treatment | <u>Reply</u> |

| Council meeting date | Raised by | Subject | Reply |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|--|------------------------------|
| 17.6.2020 | Hon Tony TSE | Measures to counter epidemics | <u>Reply</u> |
| 24.6.2020 | Hon Starry LEE | Mutual recognition system for health codes of Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao | <u>Reply</u> |
| | Hon Charles Peter MOK | Job creation for the information technology sector | <u>Reply</u> |
| | Hon Dennis KWOK | Support provided for children with special educational needs | <u>Reply</u> |
| | Hon Charles Peter MOK | Information security of the health code system | <u>Reply</u> |
| | Hon Frankie YICK | Support for the vehicle maintenance industry | <u>Reply</u> |
| 8.7.2020 | Hon KWOK Wai-keung | Measures to boost the economy | <u>Reply</u> |
| | Hon YIU Si-wing | Revitalizing the tourism industry | <u>Reply</u> |
| | Hon Alice MAK | Creation of time-limited jobs | <u>Reply</u> |
| 15.7.2020 | Hon Vincent CHENG | Measures to support employment | <u>Reply</u> |
| | Hon Martin LIAO | The "new normal" of co-existence with virus | <u>Reply</u> |
| | Hon LUK Chung-hung | Aviation industry and aviation support services sector | <u>Reply</u> |