



中華人民共和國香港特別行政區政府總部食物及衛生局  
Food and Health Bureau, Government Secretariat  
The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region  
The People's Republic of China

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26 June 2020

Ms Maisie Lam  
Clerk to Subcommittee  
Council Business Division  
Legislative Council Secretariat  
Legislative Council Complex  
1 Legislative Council Road, Central  
Hong Kong

Dear Ms Lam,

**Subcommittee on Subsidiary Legislation Relating to  
the Prevention and Control of Disease**

**Follow-up actions required of the Administration  
arising from the discussion at the meeting on 15 June 2020**

Thank you for your letter of 16 June 2020 seeking information as requested at the meeting on 15 June 2020. Our reply is set out below –

- (a) Guangdong and Hong Kong are closely connected and there are frequent economic and trade activities between the two places. Currently, the coronavirus disease 2019 (“COVID-19”) outbreak in Guangdong Province has relatively subsided. In view of this and in line with our “suppress and lift” strategy, relevant policy bureaux and departments of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (“SAR”) Government are actively discussing with the relevant departments of Guangdong Province the related arrangements under the framework of

joint prevention and control. Regarding the mutual recognition of virus test results and exemption of designated cross-boundary travellers from compulsory quarantine, the governments of Guangdong and Hong Kong are considering the launch of a pilot scheme to relax cross-boundary flow of people between the two places within certain limits in order to facilitate people who need to travel between Guangdong and Hong Kong.

Currently, the pilot scheme being discussed between the governments of the Hong Kong SAR and Guangdong Province is expected to include the followings:

- (i) In the initial phase of the pilot scheme, the number or coverage of persons eligible for exemption from quarantine will be subject to restrictions. If there is a quota on the number of persons, we will consider a suitable mechanism for allocating the quota, such as through an open booking system. Furthermore, exempted persons must not have left Hong Kong or Guangdong in the 14 days prior to their departure.
- (ii) The governments of Guangdong and Hong Kong will mutually recognise the results of COVID-19 tests conducted by designated testing facilities which meets the relevant standards. The mutual recognition will be done through the “Health Codes” of the two places. In relation to this, one of the preparatory tasks of the Hong Kong SAR Government is to develop a “Hong Kong Health Code” system, which enables the virus test results of participants of the pilot scheme in Hong Kong to be uploaded onto the code. Before departing from Hong Kong, eligible persons with negative test results can connect to the electronic platform through a web browser using smartphones or mobile devices, and apply for the “Hong Kong Health Code” online and download it to their mobile phones or devices. To facilitate the mutual recognition of test results by the boundary control officers of Guangdong and Hong Kong, participants of the pilot scheme can on their own accord choose to convert the “Hong Kong Health Code” for use on the “Yuekang Code” system of Guangdong for health declaration purpose when they enter Guangdong. Eligible persons arriving at Hong Kong from Guangdong can also choose to use the code conversion function on the “Yuekang Code” to directly transfer the valid nucleic acid test results onto the platform for filling in the electronic health declaration form for entering Hong Kong.

(iii) Furthermore, exempted persons must undertake nucleic acid tests for COVID-19 at private hospitals, clinics or medical laboratories recognised by the Hong Kong SAR Government, and must be tested negative for joining the pilot. To facilitate the aforesaid arrangement for mutual recognition of tests, the Hong Kong SAR Government has been encouraging and helping local private laboratories to enhance their testing capabilities for COVID-19, as well as bringing down the price by increasing market competition. At the same time, with a view to lowering the price of testing, we are working with the private testing sector to actively explore ways to lower the costs as much as possible while upholding the testing standards.

We will announce the details as soon as possible after the governments of Guangdong and Hong Kong have completed discussion on the pilot scheme.

In addition, the Government is discussing with the Macao SAR Government the arrangement for mutual recognition of virus test results and exemption of cross-boundary travellers from compulsory quarantine. Details will be separately announced after the discussion has completed.

(b) The World Health Organization and health experts advised that the COVID-19 would not be eradicated without effective treatment and vaccination. The Government thus is required to incorporate work in relation to disease prevention and control, as well as infection management into the new normal of the daily operation of the society. To this end, the Government has all along adopted the “suppress and lift” strategy and strived to strike a balance among public health protection, economic impact and social acceptance, maintaining the various disease prevention measures while allowing room for gradual resumption of normal operation and activities of the society when the situation permits.

As repeatedly emphasised over the past few weeks, the Government is currently at the “lifting” phase under our “suppress and lift” disease prevention strategy. Having regard to the latest public health risk, the Government is of the view that this is an appropriate time to relax the existing social distancing measures to send a clear signal to different sectors of the society that social and economic activities may further resume subject to fulfilment of relevant infection control measures, so as to facilitate the recovery of the local economy.

To this end, the Government gazetted on 16 June 2020 directions and amendments under 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) to extend the social distancing measures in relation to catering businesses, scheduled premises and group gatherings in public places, as well as make appropriate adjustments and relaxations having regard to the latest situation. The measures came into effect on 19 June 2020 for a period of 14 days till 2 July 2020.

Following the aforementioned directions and amendments under Cap. 599F and Cap. 599G, the latest relaxed social distancing measures are as follows –

1. Catering businesses and scheduled premises (Cap. 599F)

- (i) On catering businesses, other than the relaxation measure mentioned in item 2(ii) below, the limit on the number of persons allowed to be seated together at one table has been removed while the number of persons allowed to be seated together at one table in bars/pubs has been increased from four to eight. Other requirements and restrictions on catering business premises are maintained;
- (ii) On scheduled premises, the limit on the number of persons at each facility/group/room at these premises has been increased from eight to 16 persons, and the number of persons allowed to be seated together at one table in clubs or nightclubs has been increased from four to eight. Other requirements and restrictions on scheduled premises are maintained and enhanced based on practical situations; and
- (iii) Live performance and dancing are allowed to resume at catering business and scheduled premises, but persons working at the premises and performers must wear masks all the time except when there is some form of partition or adequate distancing which could serve as effective buffer between such persons/performers and customers (or for places of public entertainment, some form of partition or adequate distancing which could serve as effective buffer between such persons/performers and customers/the

audience).

2. Group gatherings (Cap. 599G)

- (i) The number of persons allowed in group gatherings in public places has been relaxed from eight to 50. Unless exempted, the prohibition on group gatherings at public places will continue during the abovementioned 14 days;
- (ii) Group gatherings at catering business premises (such as banquets at those premises) would be exempted from the restriction on the number of persons at group gatherings under Cap. 599G. This relaxation has taken into account the fact that all catering businesses and scheduled premises subject to Cap. 599F are required to follow a series of infection control requirements and restrictions, and that group gatherings at scheduled premises have been exempted from the restriction on the number of persons at group gatherings under Cap. 599G since 8 May 2020; and
- (iii) Having regard to the latest limit on the number of persons at group gatherings, corresponding adjustments are also made to the exempted group gatherings under Cap. 599G.

The Government will continue to review the various measures in place from time to time in accordance with the development of the epidemic situation, and will make suitable adjustments taking into account all relevant factors.

For enquiries, please contact me at 3509 8955.

Yours sincerely,



( Ronald Ho )

for Secretary for Food and Health

c.c. Director of Health (Attn.: Dr KH Wong)