



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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[English Translation]

17 April 2020

Clerk to Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene  
Legislative Council Complex  
1 Legislative Council Road  
Central  
Hong Kong  
(Attention: Miss Josephine SO)

Dear Miss SO,

**Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene-  
Prohibition of the sale and supply of alcoholic drinks**

Regarding your letter dated 26 March reflecting Dr Hon Kwok Ka-ki's concern on the captioned issue, our reply is set out below.

The community has widely discussed the proposal of prohibiting the sale and supply of alcoholic drinks earlier. The Government considers that maintaining social distancing is a key tactic for control the spread of COVID19 in the community. Therefore, the Government needs to impose stringent measures, including legislation, to reduce or even prohibit group gathering activities. In accordance with Section 8 of the Prevention and Control of Disease Ordinance (Cap. 599), two additional regulations were made by the Government on 27 March 2020.

The Government published in the Gazette on 27 March 2020 the Prevention and Control of Disease (Requirement and Directions) (Business and Premises) Regulation (Cap. 599F) to implement temporary measures to

address the current situation of public health emergency. Cap. 599F commenced on 28 March 2020 at 0.00 am and will remain in force for three months. Cap. 599F empowers SFH to, having regard to the disease outbreak and overall situation, issue directions through a notice in the Gazette to (a) require catering business premises to cease selling or supplying food or drinks for on-site consumption, and to close whole or part of the premises where food or drink is sold or supplied; (b) restrict the operation of catering business; and (c) restrict the operation of Scheduled Premises. The Government also published in the Gazette on 28 March 2020 the Prevention and Control of Disease (Prohibition on Group Gathering) Regulation (Cap. 599G). The Regulation commenced on 29 March 2020 at 0.00am and will remain in force for three months.

Thank you for the Panel's attention on this matter.

Yours sincerely,

[Signed]

(Gilford LAW)  
for Secretary for Food and Health