



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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7 April 2020

Clerk to Panel on Health Services
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central, Hong Kong
(Attn.: Ms. Maisie LAM)

Dear Ms LAM,

**Legislative Council
Panel on Health Services**

**Motions passed at the meeting on 20 March 2020 related to
“Measures for the prevention and control of coronavirus disease-2019”**

We refer to your letter dated 24 March 2020. Enclosed herewith please find the Government's response to the motions respectively moved by Hon CHAN Chi-chuen and Dr Hon Helena WONG and passed at the meeting on 20 March 2020.

Yours sincerely,

(Lilian TSE)

for Secretary for Food and Health

Encl.

c.c.

Secretary for Food and Health's Office
Food and Health Bureau

Department of Health

(Attn.: Mrs Winnie KANG)

(Attn.: Mr Ronald HO)

(Attn.: Miss Yandy CHAN)

(Attn.: Dr KH WONG)

**Legislative Council
Panel on Health Services**

**Government's Response on the Measures for the Prevention and Control of
Coronavirus Disease-2019**

The novel coronavirus outbreak is spreading rapidly across the globe, leading to the number of imported cases to Hong Kong increasing significantly in recent days. Recently, nearly 90% of the cases are imported cases or the relevant person has travel history during the virus incubation period or is a close contact of an imported case or case with travel history. In view of this, to safeguard the health of the public and protect our health system, currently the focus of the Government's prevention and control work is mainly to prevent the virus from being imported from outside of Hong Kong and prevent imported cases from spreading in the community.

**Denying non-Hong Kong residents from entering Hong Kong via all
boundary control points**

To further prevent imported cases and cut the global and local virus transmission chains as far as possible, the following measures have been implemented with effect from 0.00 am on 25 March 2020 until further notice.

- All non-Hong Kong residents coming from overseas countries and regions by plane will be denied entry to Hong Kong;
- Non-Hong Kong residents coming from the Mainland, Macao and Taiwan will be denied entry to Hong Kong if they have been to any overseas countries and regions in the past 14 days;
- All transit services at Hong Kong International Airport will be suspended; and
- All travellers coming from Macao and Taiwan, including Hong Kong and non-Hong Kong residents, will be subject to a 14-day compulsory quarantine, which is the same as the arrangements for people entering Hong Kong from the Mainland.

Taking into consideration the practical situation, a small number of persons can be exempted from the above immigration restrictions and/or

quarantine requirements¹. The Immigration Department will handle each case in accordance with immigration policy, the actual situation and established procedures.

Strengthening surveillance of the virus

The Centre for Health Protection of the Department of Health (“DH”) has been progressively extending its Enhanced Laboratory Surveillance Programme (“the Programme”), offering free testing for the coronavirus disease-2019 (“COVID-19”) to asymptomatic inbound travellers since 19 March 2020, with an aim to identifying patients early and minimising the risk of community transmission. Starting 29 March 2020, all asymptomatic inbound travellers arriving from all places under the Compulsory Quarantine of Persons Arriving at Hong Kong from Foreign Places Regulation (Cap. 599E) are further covered by the Programme.

The DH has set up a Temporary Specimen Collection Centre (“TSCC”) at the AsiaWorld-Expo since 26 March 2020 to speed up the collection of specimen from inbound travellers from overseas for conducting testing for COVID-19. The relevant travellers will be given a specimen container on arrival. They can take a shuttle bus from the Hong Kong International Airport immediately to the TSCC to collect their deep throat saliva specimen there in accordance with the instructions and submit it to the DH personnel on duty and then return to their place of accommodation for the 14-day compulsory quarantine as soon as possible by their own means. Alternatively, they can collect their deep throat saliva specimen by themselves at their place of accommodation, and ask their family members or friends to deliver it to any of the collection clinics or collection points in the same morning the specimen was taken. Starting from 3 April 2020, people who collect specimen by themselves at their place of accommodation can make use of a door-to-door specimen collection service from member companies of the Cyberport Startup Alumni Association to submit their deep throat saliva specimens to DH. If a specimen tests positive, DH will

¹ These persons include:

- (i) Macao residents who are registered under the Macao scheme under agreement between the Macao Special Administrative Region Government and the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government that they will be immediately taken by coach back to Macao upon entry;
- (ii) Spouses and minor children of Hong Kong residents;
- (iii) Categories of persons exempted from the quarantine requirement under Compulsory Quarantine of Certain Persons Arriving at Hong Kong Regulation (Cap. 599C) and Compulsory Quarantine of Persons Arriving at Hong Kong from Foreign Places Regulation (Cap. 599E), such as:
 - (a) Crew members of aircraft who need to commute to and from foreign places for performance of necessary duties or crew members of goods vessels;
 - (b) Government officials carrying out government duties including personnel of consular posts; and
 - (c) Personnel engaged in anti-epidemic work endorsed by the HKSAR Government.

immediately arrange the person concerned to be admitted to a hospital for isolation and treatment; if the test result is negative, the person concerned is still required to continue the 14-day quarantine at the place of accommodation.

Quarantine facilities

For people who are required to undergo compulsory quarantine in accordance with the Compulsory Quarantine of Certain Persons Arriving at Hong Kong Regulation (Cap. 599C)² and Compulsory Quarantine of Persons Arriving at Hong Kong from Foreign Places Regulation (Cap. 599E)³, the quarantine premises are mainly residential homes, though hotels can also be an option. The Home Affairs Department has liaised with the hotel industry and the Tourism Commission, etc., and DH has also provided relevant guidelines to the hotel industry on handling compulsory quarantine arrangements.

Currently, there are four quarantine centres for close contacts who may have been exposed to the risk of contracting COVID-19 but are nonetheless asymptomatic to undergo quarantine, namely the Lei Yue Mun Park and Holiday Village in Chai Wan, the Heritage Lodge at the Jao Tsung-I Academy, Chun Yeung Estate, Fo Tan and Junior Police Call Permanent Activity Centre (“JPC Centre”), providing over 1 700 units in total. In view of the rapid development of the outbreak and the increasing demand for quarantine units, we have been actively making preparations since mid-March to make available more units at Chun Yeung Estate for quarantine purpose. The construction work of the additional units at Block 3 and Block 4 is progressing smoothly and the target is to provide an additional 1 600 units or so within April. We will also continue to construct at least 1 000 more quarantine units in total at the Lei Yue Mun Park and Holiday Village in Chai Wan, Sai Kung Outdoor Recreation Centre, JPC Centre and a government site at Penny’s Bay through the application of the modular integrated construction method. It is expected that the units can be completed and put into use from April to July by phase.

When searching for the sites to build quarantine centres, the Government will thoroughly consider whether the facilities and sites meet the requirements for a quarantine centre, including whether the facilities can be put

² The Compulsory Quarantine of Certain Persons Arriving at Hong Kong Regulation (Cap. 599C) subjects all persons arriving from or having stayed in the Mainland, Macao or Taiwan for any period during the 14 days preceding their arrival in Hong Kong, regardless of nationality and travel documents used, to a compulsory quarantine for 14 days, unless exempted.

³ The Compulsory Quarantine of Persons Arriving at Hong Kong from Foreign Places Regulation (Cap. 599E) subjects all persons arriving from or having stayed all places outside China for any period during the 14 days preceding their arrival in Hong Kong, regardless of nationality and travel documents used, to a compulsory quarantine for 14 days, unless exempted.

into operation within a very short period of time, the location of the site, the overall facilities and infrastructure (including sanitary facilities and ventilation), the environment, as well as the potential impact to residents nearby, etc. In view that hotels are designed for leisure and recreational purposes, most of the rooms are equipped with central air-conditioning and are enclosed. They therefore do not meet the requirements of quarantine centres to have independent air-conditioning with fresh air ventilation.