

**For information  
on 8 May 2020**

**Legislative Council Panel on Health Services**

**Prevention and Control of  
Coronavirus Disease 2019 in Hong Kong**

**PURPOSE**

Further to the submissions to the Legislative Council (“LegCo”) and its Panel on Health Services in the past few months<sup>1</sup>, this paper provides an update on the Government’s response and measures adopted to prevent and control the spread of coronavirus disease-2019 (“COVID-19”) in Hong Kong.

**LATEST SITUATION**

**(a) Local situation**

2. As at 7 May 2020, Hong Kong had 1 045 confirmed cases (including 1 suspected case), including 4 fatal cases and 943 discharged patients after treatment. Based on epidemiological classification, 648 of them are imported cases or epidemiologically linked with imported cases, 397 are local cases, possibly local cases or epidemiologically linked with local cases.

3. The increase in the number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Hong Kong has slowed down in recent days. This reflects that the joint

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<sup>1</sup> Information papers were submitted to the LegCo Panel on Health Services on 10 January 2020 (LC Paper No. CB(2)468/19-20(05)), 30 January 2020 (LC Paper No. CB(2)575/19-20(01)), 10 March 2020 (LC Paper No. CB(2)673/19-20(01)), 20 March 2020 (LC Paper No. CB(2)734/19-20(04)), 8 April 2020 (LC Paper No. CB(2)794/19-20(01)) and 24 April 2020 (LC Paper No. CB(2)855/19-20(03)) respectively. An information paper was also submitted to LegCo for information on 18 February 2020 (<https://www.legco.gov.hk/yr19-20/english/counmtg/papers/cm20200219p-e.pdf>).

efforts of the healthcare sector, frontline workers and members of the community since early this year, together with the Government's various public health measures related to social distancing, immigration control and quarantine and testing, are gradually delivering results. There has been no local confirmed case for over two consecutive weeks. There were only 5 imported confirmed cases in the past 4 days, and there were 11 days with no new cases. That said, the outbreak situation remains severe in some overseas countries and regions, and there may still be fluctuations in the outbreak situation in Hong Kong. To safeguard the health of the public and protect Hong Kong's healthcare system, the current focus of the Government's prevention and control work remains to prevent the virus from being imported into Hong Kong from other places and to slow down the spreading of cases in the community.

**(b) Global and Mainland situation**

4. On 11 March 2020, the World Health Organisation ("WHO") declared that the outbreak of COVID-19 can be characterised as a pandemic. There has been a rapid and continuous increase in the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases reported around the world. As at 7 May 2020 (10 a.m.), besides the Mainland, 216 countries/areas in the world (including Hong Kong) had reported more than 3 544 704 confirmed cases of COVID-19, including more than 252 630 death cases. Please refer to **Annex 1** for the details.

5. Among these countries/areas, the number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 has been running high in a number of regions, including the United States, Spain, Italy and Germany. As at 7 May 2020, the latest situation in these countries is summarised below –

**(i) United States:** The number of confirmed cases reached 1 193 813 (including 70 802 deaths). More than 316 041 of the cases occurred in New York City.

**(ii) Spain:** The number of confirmed cases reached 220 325 (including 25 857 deaths).

**(iii) Italy:** The number of confirmed cases reached 214 457 (including 29 684 deaths).

**(iv) Germany:** The number of confirmed cases reached 164 807 (including 6 996 deaths).

6. As for the situation in the Mainland, the number of cases has dropped significantly since early March. The majority of the recent confirmed cases are imported cases. As at 7 May 2020, the cumulative number of confirmed cases reached 82 885 (4 633 deaths), with 68 128 confirmed cases (4 512 deaths) in Hubei Province. For Guangdong Province, the number of confirmed cases reached 1 589 (8 deaths).

## **KEY MEASURES**

7. All government bureaux and departments, the Hospital Authority (“HA”), as well as relevant parties, have stepped up their efforts on all fronts in preventing and controlling COVID-19. An overview of our key measures is set out below. A chronology of major events and measures is at [Annex 2](#).

### **(a) Strengthening port health measures**

8. As an on-going measure, the Government has imposed body temperature checks for all incoming travellers at all boundary control points (“BCPs”). Since 1 February 2020, the Hong Kong International Airport (“HKIA”) has implemented body temperature checks for both departing and transit passengers. To strengthen surveillance and contact tracing, a health declaration arrangement has been implemented at HKIA (for Wuhan flights, subsequently all Mainland flights and then Korea flights) and other land-based BCPs since 21 January 2020. With the increasing number of countries/areas reporting community transmission of cases of COVID-19, the Department of Health (“DH”) has extended the health declaration arrangement to all inbound travellers at HKIA since 8 March 2020. DH also started the use of an electronic health declaration system at HKIA on the same day. The system has been used by other land-based BCPs since 21 March 2020.

## **(b) Strengthening immigration control**

9. To further prevent imported cases and cut the global and local virus transmission chain as far as possible, the Government has since 25 March 2020 implemented the following measures to restrict entry and suspend all transit services at HKIA, initially until 7 April 2020. Taking into account that the outbreak situation is still severe in some overseas countries and regions, the Government announced on 6 April 2020 to extend the relevant measures 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 or regions in the past 14 days;
- All transit services at HKIA 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.

10. Taking into consideration the practical situation, a small number of persons can be exempted from the above immigration restrictions and/or quarantine requirements<sup>2</sup>. The Immigration Department will handle each case in accordance with immigration policy, actual situation and established procedures.

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<sup>2</sup> 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.

### **(c) Outbound Travel Alerts (“OTAs”) and compulsory quarantine**

11. In view of the health risks arising from the continuous and rapid increase in the number of COVID-19 cases around the globe, the Government decided on 17 March 2020 to issue the Red OTA on all overseas countries/territories based on public health considerations. Members of the public are strongly urged to adjust their travel plans and avoid any non-essential travel outside Hong Kong.

12. As regards compulsory quarantine, the Government gazetted on 7 February 2020 the Compulsory Quarantine of Certain Persons Arriving at Hong Kong Regulation (Cap. 599C), which mandates all persons having stayed in the Mainland for any period during the 14 days preceding arrival in Hong Kong, regardless of nationality and travel documents used, except for exempted persons, to be subject to compulsory quarantine for 14 days.

13. Having regard to the Red OTA issued on all overseas countries/territories on 17 March 2020, the Government gazetted on 18 March 2020 the Compulsory Quarantine of Persons Arriving at Hong Kong from Foreign Places Regulation (Cap. 599E), which mandates arrivals from all specified places outside China to undergo quarantine. This Regulation took effect on 19 March 2020 at 0:00am and will remain in force for three months till 18 June 2020. The Secretary for Food and Health (“SFH”) specified on the same day under Cap. 599E that all persons having stayed in places outside China for any period during the 14 days preceding arrival in Hong Kong, regardless of nationality and travel documents used, except for exempted persons, will be subject to compulsory quarantine for 14 days.

14. Together with the Compulsory Quarantine of Persons Arriving at Hong Kong from Foreign Places Regulation (Cap. 599E) effected on 19 March 2020, the Government gazetted on 24 March 2020 the Compulsory Quarantine of Certain Persons Arriving at Hong Kong (Amendment) Regulation 2020 (“Amendment Regulation”). With effect from 25 March 2020 at 0:00am, the Amendment Regulation extends the compulsory 14-day quarantine arrangement to all persons, except for

exempted persons, arriving from or having stayed in Macao and Taiwan in the past 14 days prior to arrival in Hong Kong, in addition to those arriving from the Mainland.

15. To guard against any sudden turn in the outbreak situation in Hong Kong and at the same time allowing the Government to adjust public health measures, the Government gazetted on 28 April 2020 the Compulsory Quarantine of Certain Persons Arriving at Hong Kong (Amendment) (No.2) Regulation 2020 (“the Amendment Regulation No.2”), which took effect on 29 April 2020 at 0:00am. The Amendment Regulation No.2 mainly extends the expiry date of Cap. 599C to 7 June 2020, and provides a legal framework for broadening the exemption of persons or category of persons from compulsory quarantine, so as to allow an orderly relaxation of cross-border activities arising from the need for education or necessary economic activities<sup>3</sup>, etc. After the amendment, relevant departments can, in accordance with Cap. 599C, seek endorsement from the Chief Secretary for Administration to roll-out exemption mechanisms for exempting the relevant categories of persons. At the same time, the Amendment Regulation No.2 also empowers the Director of Health to, at appropriate time, cancel the quarantine orders against persons arriving from the Mainland or Macao who can fulfill certain criteria and are tested negative for COVID-19.

16. The implementation of the aforementioned border control measures, the Compulsory Quarantine of Persons Arriving at Hong Kong from Foreign Places Regulation and the two Amendment Regulations mean that currently all non-Hong Kong residents arriving from overseas countries or regions are denied entry or transit, and all persons arriving in Hong Kong are required to undergo compulsory quarantine (except for a small number of exempted persons). These measures can further help

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<sup>3</sup> In light of the gradual resumption of passenger movement and economic activities, the Amendment Regulation No.2 will further empower the Chief Secretary for Administration to exempt persons fulfilling the following criteria from compulsory quarantine (including all persons arriving from the Mainland, Macao and Taiwan) –

- (i) persons who need to enter Hong Kong in receiving or providing nursery, kindergarten, primary or secondary education at any school registered under the Education Ordinance (Cap. 279) in Hong Kong or for the safe travelling of these persons for the abovementioned purpose, including cross-boundary students and related personnel and service providers; and
- (ii) persons whose 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.

prevent the spread of COVID-19 outbreak in Hong Kong.

17. The Government conducts detailed risk assessments prior to implementation of port health measures and quarantine arrangement in response to disease outbreak in other countries or regions. Other than considering the number, distribution and rate of increase of infected persons, the Government would also take into account the surveillance and control measures implemented by the authorities of that particular country/region, as well as the frequency of travels between Hong Kong and that particular country/region. The Government would suitably review and rationalise the relevant measures having regard to the latest development of the outbreak.

#### **(d) Enhancing anti-epidemic facilities and services**

##### **Services and facilities of public hospitals**

18. In view of the development of the outbreak, the Government and HA have introduced various measures to cope with the demand for services at public hospitals. Triage and test centres have been set up at the Accident and Emergency Departments (“AEDs”) of a number of public hospitals to alleviate the demand for isolation facilities at public hospitals. The HA Major Incident Control Centre (“MICC”) will liaise closely with DH to triage inbound travellers with upper respiratory symptoms, people undergoing home quarantine or close contacts of confirmed cases, etc. to the AEDs of various public hospitals to undergo testing. Having regard to factors such as service demand and weather conditions, etc., HA will adjust accordingly the arrangement of triage and test centres at AEDs.

19. HA has also retrofitted one to two general wards in each cluster into standard negative pressure wards to provide around 400 additional standard negative pressure beds for patients who are recovering but not yet showing negative results in their virus tests. HA will continue to closely monitor the situation and actively consider different plans for isolation facilities with a view to activating them as soon as possible when the need arises.

## **Adjustment of HA services**

20. In view of the development of the outbreak, HA has significantly adjusted non-emergency and non-essential medical services since 17 February 2020 so as to focus manpower and resources such as personal protective equipment, etc. to provide care for the most critical patients and respond to the epidemic. Specific measures include –

- except for emergency and essential treatment, non-emergency services such as elective surgeries will be postponed;
- specialist outpatient clinics will contact patients with stable conditions to reschedule their appointments and arrange drug refills for them according to their conditions; and
- except for emergency and essential examinations, non-emergency examinations such as routine endoscopy, etc. will be rescheduled.

21. At the same time, HA has expanded the service scope of some of the existing Public-Private Partnership (“PPP”) Programmes. Starting from mid-February, the Project on Enhancing Radiological Investigation Services through Collaboration with the Private Sector has expanded its service group to cover all eligible cancer patients. There has also been a significant increase in the service volume of computed tomography scans and magnetic resonance imaging scans. The service quota of the Haemodialysis PPP Programme has also been increased since end-January to refer more patients to community haemodialysis centres for treatment. Furthermore, HA also extended the Colon Assessment PPP Programme in mid-March to cover colonoscopy cases recently delayed due to the epidemic so as to refer suitable patients to receive colonoscopy at private healthcare facilities.

22. HA is also actively liaising with private hospitals to launch new public-private collaboration initiatives, with a view to diverting some patients from public hospitals to private hospitals to receive treatment, such as neonatal jaundice treatment, caesarean delivery, radiotherapy for cancer patients and orthopaedic surgery. Patients can receive early treatment by paying the fees charged by public hospitals. Furthermore,



HA is inviting tender for cystoscopy services. It will refer affected patients by phase to receive the services at private hospitals upon launch of the programme. The arrangement for the provision of relevant services by the private sector will form part of HA's overall strategic service framework for meeting the service demand of patients.

23. On the other hand, HA will change its service model where practicable and continue to serve patients with the use of video conferencing technologies. For example, psychiatric services have piloted the use of telemedicine consultations to provide psychiatric consultation services. Allied health staff have been using video conferences to follow up on treatments, or providing videos of rehabilitation exercises to patients through HA's mobile application "HA Go", so as to allow patients to continue their training at home according to schedule.

24. HA has been closely monitoring the manpower and service situation of public hospitals and making timely adjustments. The industrial action earlier affected public hospital services. At that time, HA activated the MICC to closely monitor the operation of public hospitals and to deploy manpower and adjust non-emergency services with regard to service needs, with a view to ensuring that patients with emergency medical needs will receive proper treatment. With regards to individual affected cases, public hospitals will arrange follow-up consultation or treatment as early as possible in accordance to the patient's situation.

25. As the novel coronavirus outbreak is expected to continue for some time, HA is exploring to gradually resume some of its services where practicable. When considering the resumption of non-emergency and non-essential services, HA will take into account factors such as overall manpower, the stockpile of personal protective equipment as well as infection control measures, etc., and will resume the services by phase. In the first phase, HA will first consider resuming non-emergency diagnostic and check-up services, followed by services that support discharged patients such as outpatient and daytime services in the second phase. The third phase will be the resumption of inpatient services after considering factors such as infection control measures and the safety of

patients and healthcare staff, etc. As individual hospitals face different operational environments, they will gradually resume non-emergency services in light of the actual situation and operational need.

### **District Health Centre Services**

26. As the district primary healthcare hub, the Kwai Tsing District Health Centre (“DHC”) has been providing community support during the epidemic, such as setting up a community anti-epidemic support hotline, setting up anti-epidemic information centre, as well as distributing anti-epidemic support information and resources, etc. The DHC has also planned to provide multi-disciplinary post-discharge support for patients who have recovered from the novel coronavirus, including services such as pathology explanation, infection control, cardiopulmonary rehabilitation, emotional support, post-recovery nutritional supplement, anti-epidemic drug consultation and restructuring of lifestyle, etc. The Primary Healthcare Office is now discussing with Princess Margaret Hospital on the mode of collaboration. In future, if a doctor considers the condition of a recovered patient to be suitable, he can refer the patient to DHC to join the programme.

### **Quarantine facilities**

27. 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, 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 the Junior Police Call Permanent Activity Centre (“JPC Centre”) at Pat Heung, Yuen Long, providing around 3 700 units in total.

28. In view of the rapid development of the COVID-19 outbreak, it is difficult to accurately estimate the demand for quarantine facilities. Therefore we must be prepared for the rainy days and continue to set up more quarantine facilities where practicable. The Government is continuing to construct at the Sai Kung Outdoor Recreation Centre and at a government site at Penny’s Bay through the application of the modular integrated construction method to provide around 900 more quarantine

units in total. It is expected that the units can be completed and put into use from May to July by phase. In addition, the Government will construct quarantine facilities at a site at Penny's Bay reserved for future tourism development, and is preparing to commence the relevant works with an aim to providing 700 more units by September. The Government will closely monitor the latest development and make corresponding deployment in view of the situation.

**(e) Enhancing surveillance**

29. Under the Enhanced Laboratory Surveillance Programme ("the Programme"), the Center for Health Protection ("CHP") under DH has been providing free testing services for COVID-19 at HKIA to asymptomatic inbound travellers arriving at Hong Kong from places with higher risks since 19 March 2020, with an aim to identifying the patients early and minimising the risk of community transmission. Starting from 29 March 2020, the scope of the Programme has been progressively extended to cover all asymptomatic inbound travellers arriving at HKIA from places 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). To speed up the collection of specimen from inbound travellers from overseas for conducting testing for COVID-19, DH has set up a Temporary Specimen Collection Centre ("TSCC") at Asia World-Expo ("AWE") since 26 March 2020. Starting from 8 April 2020, DH has also strengthened quarantine and virus testing arrangements for inbound travellers, and all persons mentioned above are **mandated** under the Prevention and Control of Disease Regulation (Cap. 599) to have their deep throat saliva samples collected at the TSCC for conducting testing for COVID-19<sup>4</sup>.

30. To further lower the risks of cases of COVID-19 imported from high risk regions from spreading in the community, starting from 9 April

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<sup>4</sup> All inbound travellers arriving at Hong Kong are required to immediately take shuttle bus from the HKIA to DH's TSCC at AWE for collecting and submitting their deep throat saliva specimens. If the result of the aforesaid test is positive, DH will immediately arrange the person concerned to be admitted to a hospital for isolation and treatment. The close contacts who travelled with the confirmed patient will be sent to designated quarantine centres to undergo compulsory quarantine for 14 days. If the test result is negative, the person concerned is still required to continue the 14-day quarantine at his/her place of accommodation.

2020, DH progressively and by phase required all asymptomatic inbound travellers arriving on flights from the United Kingdom, other European countries and the United States to have their deep throat saliva samples collected at DH's TSCC and **wait for the test results there**. Starting from 19 April 2020, the above measure was extended to all inbound travellers arriving at Hong Kong in the morning, regardless of the place of departure. Starting from 22 April 2020, the above measure was extended to all inbound travellers arriving at Hong Kong. Depending on the arrival time of flights, DH will arrange those asymptomatic inbound travellers who need to wait for test results overnight to be temporarily accommodated in the DH Holding Centre for Test Result set up in a hotel. Besides, in view that in some recent cases persons undergoing home quarantine were tested positive for COVID-19 around the completion date of the quarantine, starting from 20 April 2020, DH provides all asymptomatic inbound travellers arriving at HKIA with an **extra specimen collection container** and request collection of deep throat saliva samples by themselves on the 12th day of their home quarantine for another round of virus testing.

31. For **land-based BCPs**, starting from 8 April 2020, specimen collection containers will also be provided to inbound travellers who have been to Hubei Province in the past 14 days arriving via Shenzhen Bay Port and the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge Hong Kong Port for collection of their deep throat saliva samples for virus testing during the period of compulsory home quarantine.

32. At the same time, in order to timely identify and detect cases of novel coronavirus infection transmitted in the community, HA has conducted tests for novel coronavirus infection on all patients meeting the reporting criteria announced by CHP, and gradually extended the scope of surveillance to cover all inpatient pneumonia cases through the Enhanced Laboratory Surveillance Programme (“Surveillance Programme”). Since 19 February 2020, the Surveillance Programme has been further extended to cover outpatients seeking consultation at HA's AEDs or General Out-patient Clinics (“GOPCs”) presented with fever and/or respiratory symptoms or mild chest infection. As at 6 May at 7:30 a.m., out of the 1 041 cumulative confirmed cases, 122 were patients seeking consultation at public hospitals' AEDs or GOPCs.

33. As for **private doctors**, starting from 9 March 2020, the Public Health Laboratory Services Branch under CHP provides free virus testing on COVID-19 for relevant samples submitted by private doctors. On 17 April 2020, SFH also issued letters to operators of residential care homes for the elderly and operators/ managers of residential care homes for persons with disabilities, and appealed to them that if an elderly and person with disability is presented with symptoms of fever or respiratory infection, etc., he/she should be arranged to seek consultation as soon as practicable and undergo virus testing for COVID-19 as needed in accordance with the professional assessment of a doctor.

34. Inbound travellers who need to submit samples to DH are required to collect their deep throat saliva samples by themselves at home in accordance with the instructions, and to have their family members or friends deliver the sample to any of the collection points in the same morning the sample has been collected. Starting from 14 April 2020, these people can also make use of a door-to-door specimen collection service provided by member companies of the Cyberport Startup Alumni Association to submit their deep throat saliva specimens to DH for COVID-19 testing. The door-to-door specimen collection service is also provided to relevant private doctors.

**(f) Maintaining social distancing to prevent spread of the disease**

35. Maintaining social distancing is a key tactic for delaying the spread of COVID-19 in Hong Kong. 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. Details are as follow.

***Prevention and Control of Disease (Requirement and Directions) (Business and Premises) Regulation (Cap. 599F)***

36. The Government gazetted 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. It 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. On 1 April 2020, the Government gazetted the Prevention and Control of Disease (Requirement and Directions) (Business and Premises) (Amendment) Regulation to amend the Scheduled Premises under Cap. 599F to 12 categories<sup>5</sup>. In view of the development of the outbreak, SFH had issued various directions at a number of occasions in accordance with Cap. 599F to regulate catering businesses and Scheduled Premises with a view to restricting their operations or closing the premises.

37. Considering that Hong Kong's current outbreak situation is relatively stable, the Government should adopt a "suppress and lift" strategy for striking an appropriate balance between the three aspects of public health, economic development and daily operation of society. The Government announced on 5 May 2020 that with effect from 8 May 2020 at 0:00 a.m., some of the social distancing measures would be relaxed as follows. These measures will be effective for 14 days till 21 May 2020.

- The number of persons allowed to be seated together at one table at catering business premises (except bars or pubs) is increased from 4 to 8. Other preventive measures previously announced including keeping a distance of at least 1.5 metres between tables or setting up some form of partition as separation, wearing of masks, checking of temperature and provision of hand sanitizer are still required to be implemented. Karaoke activities at catering business premises should continue to be suspended;

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<sup>5</sup> 1. Amusement game centre, 2. Bathhouse, 3. Fitness centre, 4. Place of amusement, 5. Place of public entertainment, 6. "Party room", 7. Club or nightclub, 8. Karaoke establishment, 9. Mahjong-tin kau premises, 10. Club-house, 11. Beauty parlour, and 12. Massage establishment.

- Bars or pubs, and part of a catering business premise that is exclusively or mainly used for the sale or supply of intoxicating liquors for consumption at the premise, are allowed to resume operation. In addition to complying with the above preventive measures applicable to catering business premises, they must restrict the number of customers so that the number does not exceed 50 percent of the normal seating capacity of that premise. Also, no more than 4 persons may be seated together at one table and live performances and dancing must not be conducted in the premises;
- Some Scheduled Premises, including amusement game centres, fitness centres, places of amusement, places of public entertainment, beauty parlours, massage establishments and mahjong-tin kau premises are allowed to resume operation. Club-houses are also allowed to continue to operate. However, they must put in place various preventive measures, including wearing of mask at all times within the premises except specified situations, checking of their body temperature upon people entering the premises and provision of hand sanitisers, etc. When conducting group activities, there can only be 8 or fewer persons in a group, with some form of partitioning between each group. Individual premises must comply with specific measures in accordance with the risk of virus transmission; and
- Other Scheduled Premises, including bathhouses, “party rooms”, clubs or night clubs and karaoke establishments are required to remain closed for 14 days till 21 May 2020.

38. The latest details of the various directions issued in accordance with Cap. 599F are set out at **Annex 3**. Failing to comply with the requirements is an offence and could attract a fine at level 5 (\$50,000) and imprisonment for six months.

***Prevention and Control of Disease (Prohibition on Group Gathering) Regulation (Cap. 599G)***

39. The Government gazetted 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.

40. In accordance with Cap. 599G, SFH issued a notice in the Gazette on 28 March 2020 to prohibit group gatherings with more than 4 persons in public places, with effect from 29 March till 11 April 2020, and issued additional directions on 8 and 21 April 2020 respectively, extending twice the effective date of the relevant requirement to 7 May 2020. Having considered that the outbreak situation and the number of confirmed cases have gradually stabilised in the past few weeks, the Government announced on 5 May 2020 to relax the number of persons allowed in group gatherings in public places from 4 to 8, with the effective period being from 8 May to 21 May 2020. The direction also expands the scope of existing exempted group gatherings, including: (i) to cover different functions of the Judiciary; (ii) to increase the maximum number of persons at wedding ceremonies (at which no food or drink can be served) from 20 to 50; and (iii) to cover a shareholders' meeting of a listed company that is held in accordance with any Ordinance or other regulatory instrument that governs the operation of the company or its business. No food or drink can be served at the meeting and there can be no more than 50 persons in a room or partitioned area. Furthermore, to dovetail Cap. 599F and Cap. 599G, gatherings within Scheduled Premises which can be opened according to directions issued under Section 8 of Cap. 599F will not be subject to the restriction on the number of persons in group gatherings (no more than 8 persons) under Cap 599G.

41. Public places mentioned above refer to places where members of the public can get access to from time to time. If certain private properties allow access by members of the public from time to time, such as a shopping mall, such private properties would fall under the definition of public places and the requirements regarding group gatherings will be applicable. In addition, group gathering generally means a group of people who gather for a common purpose. However, there is no hard and fast interpretation of whether a particular group gathering is a group gathering as defined under Cap. 599G. There is a need to look at the actual circumstances of the case and consider all appropriate and relevant



factors, such as whether the gathering is organised beforehand, whether there is any interaction between the participants, and whether the gathering only lasts for a very short period of time.

42. Except for exempted types of group gatherings (please refer to **Annex 4** for details), any person who participates in a prohibited group gathering; organises a prohibited group gathering; or owns, controls or operates the place of the gathering and knowingly allows the taking place of the gathering, commits an offence. Offenders are liable to a maximum penalty of a fine at level 4 (\$25,000) and imprisonment for six months. Persons who participate in a prohibited group gathering may discharge liability for the offence by paying a fixed penalty of \$2,000.

### ***Enforcement***

43. Enforcement work under Cap. 599F and Cap. 599G has been generally satisfactory. With regards to the situation of catering business premises, as at 7 May 2020 at 0:00 a.m., enforcement departments including the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (“FEHD”), DH, Police and Home Affairs Department had carried out 87 331 inspections with a total of about 3 044 reminders and 61 prosecutions, including 13 cases involving illegal operation of bars and pubs, among which the persons responsible in two cases have been sentenced by the courts to jail for one week and two months respectively. The remaining 48 cases were related to not conducting body temperature screening on customers before their entering the catering business premises and the distance or partitioning between one table and another not being in compliance with the relevant requirements, etc.

44. With regards to Scheduled Premises with restricted operations, law enforcement officers carried out a total of 11 095 inspections. It was found that the industry generally abided by the law. Only around 71 reminders (of advisory nature including immediate rectification) were issued. Three prosecutions involving illegal operation of amusement game centres and two prosecutions involving illegal operation of mahjong-tin kau premises were instituted.

45. As for Cap. 599G, enforcement departments have enhanced

manpower to step up patrols in various public places, and reminded the public to comply with the requirements of the Regulation by verbal explanation, advice or warning. If a person ignores repeated reminders or breaks the law, law enforcement officers also have the responsibility to take enforcement action. As at 7 May 2020 at 0:00 a.m., the Police had handled 5 183 reports on non-compliance of the directions concerned, gave 782 verbal warnings, issued 477 fixed penalty tickets and instituted 15 prosecutions. There is a mechanism under Cap. 599G that allows the person receiving the penalty notice to dispute liability for the offence. The DH, FEHD, Leisure and Cultural Services Department, Housing Department and Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department also looked after public places at the premises under their respective purviews, carried out 68 285 inspections and gave around 11 097 verbal warnings in total.

46. The Government will continue to arrange enforcement and inspection operations to ensure that operators of premises and members of the public will comply with the requirements of the two aforementioned Regulations. We hope to send a strong message to members of the public through legislative work and urge them to be self-disciplined and abide by the law during the effective period of the Regulations. For the sake of themselves as well as other people, they should go out less and avoid social activities such as meal gatherings or get-togethers. They should also maintain proper social distancing as far as possible, with an aim to cutting the virus transmission chain.

#### **(g) Second round of the Anti-epidemic Fund**

47. In response to the challenges arising from the COVID-19 outbreak situation, the LegCo Finance Committee approved the funding proposal of \$137.5 billion in relation to the second round of the Anti-epidemic Fund (“the Fund”) on 18 April 2020, so as to implement measures to comprehensively help businesses stay afloat, keep employees in employment, relieve financial burdens on businesses and individuals, and enable the economy to recover as soon as possible once the epidemic has subsided. The cost of implementing the whole package of measures is \$137.5 billion. Together with the \$30 billion under the first round of the Fund and the relief measures under the Budget which involves \$120

billion, the total fiscal implication for the Government is \$287.5 billion, representing about 10% of Hong Kong's Gross Domestic Product. The Food and Health Bureau ("FHB") is following up on the implementation of waiving the registration and enrolment fees for some 125 000 healthcare professionals for three years starting from July 2020.

#### **(h) Health and Medical Research Fund**

48. The Research Council chaired by SFH approved total funding of \$111 million under the Health and Medical Research Fund on 27 April 2020 to support the two medical schools of the University of Hong Kong and Chinese University of Hong Kong to conduct 26 medical research studies on COVID-19.

49. The research studies include 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 (the virus that causes COVID-19); and investigation on Hong Kong's system of early detection, assessment and response to the COVID-19 outbreak.

50. As much is still unknown about the spread and diagnostics of COVID-19, the FHB will continue to invite new research proposals to address important research questions from other universities in addition to the two medical schools.

#### **(i) Liaison with Mainland health authorities and international cooperation**

51. The Government has been maintaining close liaison and cooperation with the Mainland health authorities as well as international organisations. For example, SFH and the Under Secretary for Food and Health respectively attended meetings hosted by the WHO Regional Director for the Western Pacific on 28 February and 8 April 2020, and shared key measures of Hong Kong and reaffirmed the importance of international cooperation, in particular transparency and timely information exchange, in fighting COVID-19 together.

52. In addition, on 8 February 2020, representatives of the FHB and DH attended a special meeting on COVID-19 by the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (“APEC”) Health Working Group. Amongst others, APEC Member Economies recognised the importance of sharing information and explored potential ways to strengthen international cooperation.

53. FHB and DH will continue to work closely with the WHO, in particular on the focal issues of the other Member States of the International Health Regulations (2005), and with the APEC Health Working Group and health authorities of other jurisdictions in coping with and putting the epidemic situation under control together, in order to safeguard the health of Hong Kong people and maintain Hong Kong’s robust healthcare system.

#### **(j) Risk communication and transparency**

54. Risk communication is key to managing the public anxieties during this critical period. Apart from briefings (normally at 4:30 p.m. daily) by CHP and HA senior representatives on the number of cases (suspected, confirmed or under investigation), relevant contact tracing, quarantine arrangement, etc., the latest situation of COVID-19 in Hong Kong and the most updated health advice could be found at the “COVID-19 Thematic Website” ([www.coronavirus.gov.hk/eng/index.html](http://www.coronavirus.gov.hk/eng/index.html)). The Government also launched an Interactive Map Dashboard ([chp-dashboard.geodata.gov.hk/covid-19/en.html](http://chp-dashboard.geodata.gov.hk/covid-19/en.html)) and a Telegram channel named “Hong Kong Anti-epidemic Information Channel” (t.me/HKFIGHTEPIDEMIC) to provide the latest information in a timely manner. Senior officials also announce from time to time major government decisions and measures, as well as to update the public on major developments in combating the virus, through press conferences or other occasions.

55. CHP has issued guidelines reminding citizens to be aware of personal and environmental hygiene, and disseminated relevant health messages to citizens on preventing communicable diseases and maintaining social distancing, etc. through various channels including

Announcements in the Public Interest on both television and radio, Facebook page, Instagram platform, YouTube channel, newspapers, the “GovHK Notifications” mobile app, health education infoline, media interviews, public transport, outdoor and digital media, etc. CHP has also produced various health education materials, including leaflets, posters, infographics and pamphlets, etc. for dissemination at the community level to enhance promotion. It also maintains close liaison with different stakeholders and keeps them informed of the latest situation and preventive measures. At the same time, CHP has produced latest updates and health advice in nine ethnic minority languages<sup>6</sup>. Furthermore, seven television commercials had been produced for airing as at 19 April 2020. In addition, FEHD has disseminated relevant information, including arrangements regarding the catering business as well as food safety messages, through the Centre for Food Safety and the social media pages of Keep Clean Ambassador Ah Tak.

## **ADVICE SOUGHT**

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

**Food and Health Bureau  
Department of Health  
Hospital Authority  
May 2020**

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<sup>6</sup> Including Hindi, Nepali, Urdu, Thai, Bahasa Indonesia, Tagalog, Sinhala, Bengali and Vietnamese.

**Countries/areas with reported cases of Coronavirus Disease-2019**  
**(COVID-19)**

**(Last updated on May 7, 2020, 10 am)**

All information is based on that notified or reported by the World Health Organization, the National Health Commission, Health Bureau of Macao Special Administrative Region, Taiwan Centers for Disease Control and health authorities of overseas countries.

<b>Countries/areas with active community transmission of COVID-19</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mainland China, Macao SAR and Taiwan</b></li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>All overseas countries/territories</b></li> </ul>

**Number of COVID-19 cases reported in countries/areas#**

Countries/areas	Cumulative number of confirmed cases	Number of newly confirmed cases reported in the past 14 days	Cumulative number of deaths among confirmed cases
Afghanistan	3224	2132	95
Albania	832	198	31
Algeria	4838	2027	470
Andorra	751	28	46
Angola	36	12	2
Anguilla	3	0	0
Antigua and Barbuda	25	2	3
Argentina	4922	1849	262
Armenia	2782	1405	40
Aruba	101	4	2
Australia	6849	202	96
Austria	15586	753	606
Azerbaijan	2060	580	26
Bahamas	84	20	11
Bahrain	3720	1747	8
Bangladesh	10929	7547	183
Barbados	82	7	7
Belarus	19255	12532	112
Belgium	50509	9553	8016
Belize	18	0	2
Benin	102	48	2

Countries/areas	Cumulative number of confirmed cases	Number of newly confirmed cases reported in the past 14 days	Cumulative number of deaths among confirmed cases
Bermuda	115	29	7
Bhutan	7	1	0
Bolivia	1681	1083	82
Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba	6	1	0
Bosnia and Herzegovina	1968	628	82
Botswana	23	3	1
Brazil	107780	67199	7321
British Virgin Islands	7	3	1
Brunei Darussalam	138	0	1
Bulgaria	1689	714	78
Burkina Faso	689	108	48
Burundi	19	8	1
Cabo Verde	186	119	2
Cambodia	122	0	0
Cameroon	2265	1102	108
Canada	61159	23785	3915
Cayman Islands	75	9	1
Central African Republic	94	80	0
Chad	170	136	17
Chile	22016	11184	275
Colombia	7973	3996	358
Comoros	4	4	1
Congo	236	71	10
Costa Rica	742	80	6
Côte d'Ivoire	1464	548	18
Croatia	2112	204	83
Cuba	1685	548	69
Curaçao	16	2	1
Cyprus	878	94	20
Czech Republic	7896	855	257
Democratic Republic of the Congo	705	346	34
Denmark	9821	2126	503
Djibouti	1120	175	2
Dominica	16	0	0

Countries/areas	Cumulative number of confirmed cases	Number of newly confirmed cases reported in the past 14 days	Cumulative number of deaths among confirmed cases
Dominican Republic	8480	3436	354
Ecuador	31881	21483	1569
Egypt	7201	3711	452
El Salvador	587	362	13
Equatorial Guinea	439	360	4
Eritrea	39	0	0
Estonia	1711	159	55
Eswatini	119	95	1
Ethiopia	145	31	4
Falkland Islands (Malvinas)	13	2	0
Faroe Islands	187	2	0
Fiji	18	0	0
Finland	5412	1398	246
France	137150	17999	25809
French Guiana	133	36	1
French Polynesia	60	3	0
Gabon	397	241	6
Gambia	17	7	1
Georgia	610	199	9
Germany	164807	19113	6996
Ghana	2719	1677	18
Gibraltar	144	11	0
Greece	2642	241	146
Greenland	11	0	0
Grenada	21	7	0
Guadeloupe	152	4	13
Guam	145	12	5
Guatemala	730	436	19
Guernsey	252	13	13
Guinea	1811	1123	10
Guinea-Bissau	292	242	2
Guyana	92	26	9
Haiti	100	43	11
Holy See	11	2	0
Honduras	1178	684	89



Countries/areas	Cumulative number of confirmed cases	Number of newly confirmed cases reported in the past 14 days	Cumulative number of deaths among confirmed cases
Hong Kong Special Administrative Region*	1041	7	4
Hungary	3111	943	373
Iceland	1799	21	10
India	49391	29407	1694
Indonesia	12071	4936	872
Iran	101650	15654	6418
Iraq	2431	829	102
Ireland	21983	5943	1339
Isle of Man	325	18	23
Israel	16268	2326	237
Italy	214457	27130	29684
Jamaica	471	248	9
Japan^	15463	3544	551
Jersey	293	43	24
Jordan	471	43	9
Kazakhstan	4298	2303	29
Kenya	535	239	23
Korea	10810	108	256
Kosovo	856	252	27
Kuwait	5804	3724	40
Kyrgyzstan	871	259	12
Lao People's Democratic Republic	19	0	0
Latvia	896	148	17
Lebanon	741	59	25
Liberia	170	69	20
Libya	63	4	3
Liechtenstein	83	1	1
Lithuania	1423	53	46
Luxembourg	3840	222	96
Macao Special Administrative Region	45	0	0
Madagascar	158	37	0
Mainland China	82885	87	4633
Malawi	41	23	3

Countries/areas	Cumulative number of confirmed cases	Number of newly confirmed cases reported in the past 14 days	Cumulative number of deaths among confirmed cases
Malaysia	6383	901	106
Maldives	573	490	2
Mali	612	354	32
Malta	482	39	5
Martinique	181	18	14
Mauritania	8	1	1
Mauritius	332	4	10
Mayotte	739	428	9
Mexico	24905	16133	2271
Monaco	95	27	1
Mongolia	41	7	0
Montenegro	324	11	8
Montserrat	11	0	1
Morocco	5219	2010	181
Mozambique	80	41	0
Myanmar	161	40	6
Namibia	16	0	0
Nepal	82	40	0
Netherlands	41087	6953	5168
New Caledonia	18	0	0
New Zealand	1138	25	21
Nicaragua	15	5	5
Niger	763	106	38
Nigeria	2950	2409	98
North Macedonia	1526	295	86
Northern Mariana Islands	14	0	2
Norway	7903	737	209
Oman	2903	1289	13
Pakistan	22533	12784	526
Palestine	543	208	4
Panama	7387	2729	203
Papua New Guinea	8	1	0
Paraguay	431	223	10
Peru	47372	31047	1344
Philippines	9684	3085	637
Poland	14431	4575	716

Countries/areas	Cumulative number of confirmed cases	Number of newly confirmed cases reported in the past 14 days	Cumulative number of deaths among confirmed cases
Portugal	25702	4323	1074
Puerto Rico	1924	626	56
Qatar	17142	10609	12
Republic of Moldova	4363	1722	140
Réunion	425	15	0
Romania	13837	4595	827
Russia	165929	107930	1537
Rwanda	261	111	0
Saint Barthélemy	6	0	0
Saint Kitts and Nevis	15	0	0
Saint Lucia	18	3	0
Saint Martin	38	1	3
Saint Pierre and Miquelon	1	0	0
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	17	5	0
San Marino	589	113	41
São Tomé and Príncipe	171	167	3
Saudi Arabia	30251	18620	200
Senegal	1329	917	11
Serbia	9677	2787	200
Seychelles	11	0	0
Sierra Leone	199	149	11
Singapore	20198	10057	20
Sint Maarten	76	8	14
Slovakia	1421	222	25
Slovenia	1445	105	98
Somalia	835	549	38
South Africa	7439	3974	148
South Sudan	49	45	0
Spain^^	220325	29790	25857
Sri Lanka	771	461	9
Sudan	778	638	45
Suriname	10	0	1
Sweden	23216	7894	2854
Switzerland	29926	1945	1482
Syrian Arab Republic	44	2	3

Countries/areas	Cumulative number of confirmed cases	Number of newly confirmed cases reported in the past 14 days	Cumulative number of deaths among confirmed cases
Taiwan	439	13	6
Tajikistan	293	293	7
Thailand	2989	163	55
Timor-Leste	24	1	0
Togo	128	42	9
Trinidad and Tobago	116	2	8
Tunisia	1022	121	43
Turkey	129491	33900	3520
Turks and Caicos Islands	12	1	1
Uganda	97	41	0
Ukraine	13184	6592	327
United Arab Emirates	15192	7437	146
United Kingdom	201101	67606	30076
United Republic of Tanzania	480	225	18
United States of America**	1193813	391230	70802
United States Virgin Islands	66	12	4
Uruguay	657	122	17
Uzbekistan	2217	560	10
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	361	76	10
Viet Nam	271	3	0
Yemen	23	22	3
Zambia	137	67	4
Zimbabwe	34	6	4
<b>Number of affected countries/areas: 217</b>	<b>Total: at least 3627589 cases</b>	<b>Total: at least 1131658 cases</b>	<b>Total: at least 257263 deaths</b>

^ Excluding 712 cases were confirmed among passengers/crews in a cruise ship (including 13 fatal cases)

\* Including 1 probable case

# According to the latest available information

^^ Including confirmed cases tested positive by PCR only since April 27, 2020

\*\*Including probable cases and deaths

### Number of COVID-19 cases reported in Mainland China#

Provinces	Cumulative number of confirmed cases	Number of newly confirmed cases reported in the past 14 days	Cumulative number of deaths among confirmed cases
Hubei	68128	0	4512
Beijing	593	0	9
Liaoning	146	0	2
Anhui	991	0	6
Chongqing	579	0	6
Shaanxi	308	29	3
Tianjin	190	1	3
Fujian	356	1	1
Hunan	1019	0	4
Sichuan	561	0	3
Gansu	139	0	2
Heilongjiang	944	19	13
Jiangxi	937	0	1
Guangdong	1589	5	8
Guizhou	147	0	2
Shanghai	657	17	7
Shandong	788	1	7
Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region	254	0	2
Yunnan	185	1	2
Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region	201	7	1
Zhejiang	1268	0	1
Henan	1276	0	22
Hebei	328	0	6
Hainan	168	0	6
Jilin	112	5	1
Shanxi	198	1	0
Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region	75	0	0
Jiangsu	653	0	0
Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region	76	0	3
Qinghai	18	0	0
Tibet Autonomous Region	1	0	0

# According to the latest available information

**Chronology of Events in relation to  
the Outbreak of Novel Coronavirus Infection  
(as at 5 May 2020)**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>
31 December 2019 (Tuesday)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The Department of Health (“DH”) received the first notification from the National Health Commission (“NHC”) about a cluster of 27 pneumonia cases with unknown causes (with seven cases being serious) in Wuhan, Hubei Province</li> <li>● The Secretary for Food and Health (“SFH”) sought expert advice and alerted the public through media stand-up</li> <li>● DH issued letters to doctors and hospitals on the latest situation and reporting criteria</li> <li>● Health surveillance at the boundary control points (“BCPs”) enhanced. Suspected cases were referred to public hospitals for lab testing and isolation</li> </ul>
2 January 2020 (Thursday)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● SFH chaired a cross-bureaux/departments meeting to examine the prevention measures adopted in response to the cluster of pneumonia cases and to alert them in enhancing cleaning. A media stand-up was conducted after the meeting to provide health advice to the public and appeal to the public to stay alert</li> </ul>
3 January 2020 (Friday)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The Chief Executive (“CE”) and SFH inspected the BCP at Hong Kong West Kowloon Station of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link (“XRL”)</li> <li>● SFH met with experts to seek advice on the latest situation and risk assessment</li> <li>● A dedicated website was launched by the Centre for Health Protection (“CHP”) of DH, announcing the number of suspected cases under the heightened surveillance system</li> </ul>

Date	Event
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● CHP expanded the scope of surveillance and revised the reporting criteria, as well as strengthened port health measures and enhanced health promotion for travellers at all BCPs</li> </ul>
4 January 2020 (Saturday)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The Administration launched the Preparedness and Response Plan for Novel Infectious Disease of Public Health Significance (“the Plan”). In parallel, SFH activated the <b>Serious Response Level</b> with immediate effect</li> <li>● To tie in with the launch of the Plan, the Hospital Authority (“HA”) also announced the activation of the Serious Response Level in public hospitals with immediate effect</li> </ul>
6 January 2020 (Monday)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● SFH chaired the first meeting of Steering Committee in accordance with the Serious Response Level under the Plan and engaged experts to review the situation in Wuhan and seek advice on risk assessment</li> </ul>
7 January 2020 (Tuesday)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● SFH chaired a cross-bureaux/departments meeting to assess the latest situation and discuss prevention measures</li> <li>● SFH led a press conference to roll out the five major areas of works in preventing the diseases, including port health measures, the Plan, amendments to the Prevention and Control of Disease Ordinance (Cap. 599), control measures of the HA and risk communications</li> </ul>
8 January 2020 (Wednesday)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● “Severe Respiratory Disease associated with a Novel Infectious Agent” was gazetted as a statutorily notifiable disease under the Prevention and Control of Disease Ordinance (Cap. 599) and the Prevention and Control of Disease Regulation (Cap. 599A) starting from 8 January 2020</li> <li>● SFH attended the Legislative Council (“LegCo”) to</li> </ul>

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>
	respond to three urgent questions raised by LegCo Members
9 January 2020 (Thursday)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● SFH chaired a meeting and invited experts to discuss the latest developments of the cluster of pneumonia cases detected in Wuhan, followed by a press conference</li> <li>● The Scientific Committee on Emerging and Zoonotic Diseases and the Scientific Committee on Infection Control under the CHP of DH convened the first joint meeting to review the measures in light of the latest local and global situation of novel coronavirus infection. The Controller for the CHP joined two local experts (Professor Yuen Kwok-yung and Professor David Hui) in the press conference after the meeting</li> </ul>
10 January 2020 (Friday)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● SFH briefed the LegCo Panel on Health Services on the Government’s measures in response to cluster of pneumonia cases</li> </ul>
11 January 2020 (Saturday)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● SFH sought advice from experts on the latest situation</li> </ul>
12 January 2020 (Sunday)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● NHC announced that it had shared the genetic sequences of the novel coronavirus associated with the cluster of pneumonia cases detected in Wuhan with the World Health Organization (“WHO”)</li> </ul>
13 January 2020 (Monday)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Thailand confirmed the first imported case of novel coronavirus infection</li> <li>● The Under Secretary of Food and Health (“USFH”), together with representatives from DH and HA, departed for Wuhan to learn about the situation of the pneumonia cases, prevention and control measures and clinical management</li> <li>● HA started the Enhanced Laboratory Surveillance</li> </ul>



<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>
	Scheme to conduct testing on pneumonia patients meeting relevant criteria (i.e. with unknown causes while not responding to treatment in three days, or requiring care in Intensive Care Unit, or occurring in clusters, or who is a healthcare worker) irrespective of their travel history as a measure for more proactive case finding
14 January 2020 (Tuesday)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● SFH chaired a cross-bureaux/departments meeting to review the latest situation and revisit the robustness of the current prevention and control measures</li> </ul>
15 January 2020 (Wednesday)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● SFH convened an expert meeting and received report by the Hong Kong delegation that visited Wuhan</li> <li>● A press conference led by USFH was held to report on the working visit to Wuhan to examine the situation concerning the cluster of pneumonia cases</li> </ul>
16 January 2020 (Thursday)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● SFH chaired the second meeting of Steering Committee in accordance with the Serious Response Level under the Plan</li> <li>● Japan confirmed the first imported case of novel coronavirus infection</li> <li>● CHP revised the reporting criteria of “Severe Respiratory Disease associated with a Novel Infectious Agent” to enhance the surveillance of suspected cases</li> </ul>
17 January 2020 (Friday)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● SFH hosted a media stand-up to update the public on the latest situation</li> </ul>
20 January 2020 (Monday)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Korea confirmed the first imported case of novel coronavirus infection</li> <li>● CE joined SFH’s cross-bureaux/departments meeting to receive report on the latest situation and review preventive and control measures</li> <li>● SFH led a press conference to update the public on the</li> </ul>

Date	Event
	<p>latest situation and measures, including enhanced surveillance through extension of health declaration arrangement, the “containment” strategy and health advice on travelling</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● CHP further revised the reporting criteria of “Severe Respiratory Disease associated with a Novel Infectious Agent”</li> </ul>
21 January 2020 (Tuesday)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Taiwan confirmed the first imported case of novel coronavirus infection</li> <li>● SFH met with experts to review the latest situation in Wuhan</li> <li>● Health declaration arrangement implemented on all inbound travellers by air from Wuhan starting from midnight</li> <li>● HA extended the scope of the Enhanced Laboratory Surveillance to include any inpatients with pneumonia and travel history to the Mainland within 14 days before onset of symptoms</li> </ul>
22 January 2020 (Wednesday)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The <b>first highly suspected imported case</b> of novel coronavirus infection was reported in <b>Hong Kong</b></li> <li>● SFH held a media stand-up to update the public on the latest situation</li> <li>● CHP set up a hotline (2125 1122) for contact tracing</li> <li>● Hong Kong residents were strongly advised to avoid all non-essential travel to Wuhan, Hubei Province and stay vigilant</li> </ul>
23 January 2020 (Thursday)  [No. of confirmed cases in Hong Kong: 2]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The second highly suspected imported case of novel coronavirus infection was reported in Hong Kong</li> <li>● On the same day, <b>the two imported cases of novel coronavirus infection was confirmed</b></li> <li>● <b>Quarantine centre</b> at The Lady MacLehose Holiday Village under the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (“LCSD”) was <b>activated</b> and close contacts would be transferred to the village for</li> </ul>

Date	Event
	<p>quarantine</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Daily media briefing by CHP and HA started</li> <li>● SFH chaired the third meeting of Steering Committee, with the Chief Secretary for Administration (“CS”) in attendance, in accordance with the Plan. A press conference led by CS was held afterwards</li> <li>● CHP further revised the reporting criteria of “Severe Respiratory Disease associated with a Novel Infectious Agent” to enhance the surveillance</li> </ul>
<p>24 January 2020 (Friday)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The health declaration system was extended to cover the Hong Kong West Kowloon Station of XRL</li> <li>● Flights and high-speed train services between Hong Kong and Wuhan suspended</li> <li>● The Scientific Committee on Emerging and Zoonotic Diseases and the Scientific Committee on Infection Control under the CHP of DH convened the second joint meeting to review the measures in light of the latest local and global situation of novel coronavirus infection</li> </ul>
<p>25 January 2020 (Saturday)</p> <p>[No. of confirmed cases in Hong Kong: 5]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● CE announced <b>activation of Emergency Response Level</b> under the Plan with immediate effect and set up four working groups</li> <li>● CE held a press conference and announced the following strategies: (a) enhancing mechanism and organisation structure to tackle disease; (b) strengthening immigration control, including expanding the arrangements of health declarations by incoming travellers from the Mainland as soon as possible to all BCPs; (c) minimising risks of virus infection and spreading in local community, including extending the Chinese New Year holidays of secondary schools, primary schools, kindergartens, child care centres and special schools so that they would resume classes not earlier than 17 February; (d) enhancing personal hygiene of the public and issuing</li> </ul>

Date	Event
	<p>guidelines; (e) improving anti-epidemic facilities and services; (f) allocating sufficient resources for the strategies and measures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● To tie in with the Government raising response level to “Emergency”, HA also announced the activation of the Emergency Response Level in public hospitals with immediate effect to implement a series of measures to enhance infection control and focus resources to cope with the epidemic</li> </ul>
26 January 2020 (Sunday)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● CE chaired the <b>first meeting of Steering Committee cum Command Centre</b> in accordance with the Emergency Response Level under the Plan</li> </ul>
27 January 2020 (Monday)  [No. of confirmed cases in Hong Kong: 8]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● CE chaired the second meeting of Steering Committee cum Command Centre in accordance with the Emergency Response Level under the Plan</li> <li>● Except for Hong Kong residents, residents from Hubei Province and persons who visited the Hubei Province in the past 14 days were <b>not permitted to enter Hong Kong</b> until further notice</li> </ul>
28 January 2020 (Tuesday)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● CE chaired the third meeting of Steering Committee cum Command Centre in accordance with the Emergency Response Level under the Plan</li> <li>● Through a press conference, the Government further announced seven disease prevention and control measures: (a) significantly reducing the flow of people between the Mainland and Hong Kong, including reduction and suspension of transport and BCP services; (b) adjusting fee charging policy for Non-eligible Persons (“NEP”) of HA and to charge all NEPs the relevant fees starting from 29 January 2020; (c) reducing the flow and contacts of people in Hong Kong, including appealing to employers to make flexible work arrangements for employees in accordance with their operational needs, and</li> </ul>

Date	Event
	<p>implementing the special work arrangement for government employees other than those providing emergency and essential public services until 2 February subject to review closer to the time; (d) assisting Hong Kong residents in Hubei Province; (e) reaching out to hotels through the hotel industry and Hong Kong Tourism Board to contact travellers from Hubei province, for follow-up by the CHP; (f) continuing to identify suitable places to serve as quarantine centre facilities and other purposes; (g) worldwide procurement in order to ensure adequate supply for tackling the disease</p>
<p>29 January 2020 (Wednesday)</p> <p>[No. of confirmed cases in Hong Kong: 10]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The Commerce and Economic Development Bureau and relevant government departments met members of local chambers of commerce and the retail industry to learn more about the situation of the supply of surgical masks and problems encountered by importers and retailers</li> <li>● The health declaration system was extended to all inbound flights from the Mainland</li> <li>● The Immigration Department (“ImmD”) reached out to hotels, hostels and guesthouses to contact travellers from Hubei Province and give them relevant health advice</li> </ul>
<p>30 January 2020 (Thursday)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● CE chaired the fourth meeting of Steering Committee cum Command Centre in accordance with the Emergency Response Level under the Plan</li> <li>● <b>WHO</b> declared that the outbreak of the novel coronavirus constituted a <b>Public Health Emergency of International Concern</b> (“PHEIC”)</li> <li>● CE met with Expert Advisory Panel to seek their expert advice</li> <li>● SFH attended the special meeting of the LegCo Panel on Health Services to brief Members on the latest situation</li> </ul>

Date	Event
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● With effect from 30 January 2020, (1) cross-boundary coach, hire car and private car using Sha Tau Kok and Man Kam To Control Points were suspended due to the suspension of the immigration clearance service; (2) all services of the Hong Kong Section of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong XRL and Intercity Through Train were suspended, and (3) cross-boundary ferry services of China Ferry Terminal and Tuen Mun Ferry Terminal were suspended</li> </ul>
<p>31 January 2020 (Friday)</p> <p>[No. of confirmed cases in Hong Kong: 13]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Through a press conference led by CE, the Government announced measures to further prevent and control the spread of the disease: (a) suspending classes at all schools in Hong Kong with class resumption no earlier than 2 March; (b) special work arrangement for government departments would be extended until 9 February subject to review closer to the time; (c) all Hong Kong residents who have visited Hubei Province in the past 14 days should approach staff of the DH's Port Health Division for relevant assessment upon their arrival and would be arranged to stay in quarantine centres for surveillance; (d) for those Hubei residents who have already entered and were still staying in Hong Kong, DH would also arrange for them to stay in quarantine centres or, if asymptomatic, to leave Hong Kong as soon as possible; (e) enhancing exit screening and health declaration; (f) all-out efforts to support front-line healthcare staff; and (g) increasing supply of surgical masks through a multi-pronged approach</li> <li>● HA further extended the scope of the Enhanced Laboratory Surveillance to include all pneumonia inpatients</li> <li>● HA announced the Special Rental Allowance for staff who have to work in high risk areas under Emergency Response Level with temporary accommodation needs.</li> </ul>

Date	Event
1 February 2020 (Saturday)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Exit screening arrangement introduced in the Hong Kong International Airport (“HKIA”)</li> <li>● HA started to provide laboratory testing in public hospitals</li> </ul>
2 February 2020 (Sunday)  [No. of confirmed cases in Hong Kong: 15]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● CE chaired the fifth meeting of Steering Committee cum Command Centre in accordance with the Emergency Response Level under the Plan</li> <li>● CE wrote to Consuls-General in Hong Kong and CS met them to explain in detail the measures taken by Hong Kong in disease prevention and control</li> </ul>
3 February 2020 (Monday)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● CE led a press conference, attended by relevant Bureaux Secretaries and Heads of Department, on the stepping up of control measures. CE appealed to the public that the spread of virus occurred regardless of race, nationality and residency status, and that the flow of people across the border should be reduced as much as possible</li> <li>● The Government launched an Interactive Map Dashboard to provide the latest situation of novel coronavirus infection</li> </ul>
4 February 2020 (Tuesday)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Cross-boundary passengers by land or by sea converged to Shenzhen Bay control point and Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge (“HZMB”) Hong Kong Port</li> <li>● Passenger clearance services further suspended at <b>four control points</b>, namely Lo Wu, Lok Ma Chau Spur Line, Lok Ma Chau and Hong Kong-Macau Ferry Terminal. Cross-boundary coach, shuttle bus, hire car and private car using Lok Ma Chau Control Point were suspended</li> <li>● CE met with Expert Advisory Panel to seek their expert advice</li> </ul>

Date	Event
<p>5 February 2020 (Wednesday)</p> <p>[No. of confirmed cases in Hong Kong: 21]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● A 14-day <b>compulsory quarantine arrangement</b> on all the people entering Hong Kong from the Mainland <b>announced</b>. The new subsidiary legislation was gazetted as Cap. 599C</li> <li>● Customs, immigration and quarantine services at Kai Tai Cruise Terminal and Ocean Terminal suspended</li> <li>● The health declaration system extended to HZMB, Man Kam To (Cargo) and Sha Tau Kok (Cargo)</li> <li>● The Food and Health Bureau (“FHB”) attended the Sham Shui Po District Council to explain the arrangement and justification of using the Jao Tsung-I Academy as quarantine centre</li> <li>● CHP’s Port Health Division conducted health quarantine work on the “World Dream” cruise where some travellers from the Mainland in a previous sail were confirmed to have been infected with the novel coronavirus</li> <li>● CE led a press conference, attended by relevant Bureaux Secretaries and Heads of Department, to explain the new policy of compulsory quarantine arrangement, amongst others</li> </ul>
<p>6 February 2020 (Thursday)</p> <p>[No. of confirmed cases in Hong Kong: 24]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The Education Bureau (“EDB”) announced two possible options for the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination (“HKDSE”). Further assessment would be made towards the end of February</li> </ul>
<p>7 February 2020 (Friday)</p> <p>[No. of confirmed cases in Hong</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The Government published in the Gazette the Compulsory Quarantine of Certain Persons Arriving at Hong Kong Regulation<sup>1</sup> and the Prevention and Control of Disease (Disclosure of Information)</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> The Compulsory Quarantine of Certain Persons Arriving at Hong Kong Regulation provides that all persons having stayed in the Mainland for any period during the 14 days preceding arrival in Hong Kong, regardless of nationality and travel documents used, would be subject to compulsory quarantine for 14 days



Date	Event
Kong: 26]	<p>Regulation <sup>2</sup> . The two Regulations would be effective on 8 February</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● CE met with Expert Advisory Panel to seek their expert advice</li> <li>● CS led a press conference, attended by relevant Bureaux Secretaries and Heads of Department, to update the public of the implementation of compulsory quarantine arrangement<sup>3</sup></li> <li>● The special work arrangement for government departments was extended until 16 February subject to review closer to the time. In addition to emergency services and other essential public services, government departments would also provide basic public services of a limited scale</li> </ul>
8 February 2020 (Saturday)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● A media stand-up by CE was conducted to brief the public on the enhanced control measures</li> <li>● FHB, DH and other relevant government departments met with representatives from the cruise company of “World Dream”</li> <li>● DH had earlier taken specimens from symptomatic crew members and passengers of the “World Dream” cruise for test on novel coronavirus. Upon relevant experts’ advice, the Government decided to conduct tests on novel coronavirus for 1 800 odd crew members on board</li> <li>● The Government explained to residents in the neighbourhood on the arrangement for using Chun Yeung Estate as a quarantine centre</li> </ul>

<sup>2</sup> The Prevention and Control of Disease (Disclosure of Information) Regulation empowers a health officer to require a person to disclose or furnish any information relevant to the handling of a state of the public health emergency, such as travel history. The relevant power is extended to other medical practitioners who would encounter with a person involved in such public health emergency

<sup>3</sup> Non-Hong Kong residents will be quarantined in accommodation that they have arranged (which can be domestic or hotel units). Hong Kong residents will normally be subject to home-quarantine. Only when it is not possible for them to arrange for their own accommodation will they be quarantined in temporary accommodation arranged by the Government. (Note: Hong Kong residents who have been to Hubei in the 14 days prior to their arrival in Hong Kong and those with close contacts with confirmed cases will be quarantined in centres managed by DH. Those that come back from the Mainland (other than Hubei) and without their own accommodation will be quarantined in camps managed by LCSD.)

Date	Event
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● CE visited the BCPs and call centres to observe the implementation of the compulsory mandatory arrangement as well as the Public Health Laboratory Centre which tested the specimens of crew members of the “World Dream” cruise</li> </ul>
<p>9 February 2020 (Sunday)</p> <p>[No. of confirmed cases in Hong Kong: 36]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The Public Health Laboratory Services Branch of DH completed tests on the novel coronavirus for 1 800 odd crew members on the “World Dream” cruise. All samples were tested negative for the novel coronavirus. All guests on board disembarked</li> <li>● Representatives from FHB, DH and the Housing Department (“HD”) briefed members of the Sha Tin District Council about the arrangement and justifications of using Chun Yeung Estate as a quarantine centre</li> <li>● CE, accompanied by SFH, visited HKIA and HZMB</li> </ul>
<p>10 February 2020 (Monday)</p> <p>[No. of confirmed cases in Hong Kong: 42]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● CE chaired the sixth meeting of Steering Committee cum Command Centre in accordance with the Emergency Response Level under the Plan</li> <li>● SFH led a press conference to communicate with the public on the compulsory home quarantine measure</li> <li>● The 42<sup>nd</sup> confirmed case was found to be residing at the same A07 unit of Hong Mei House, Cheung Hong Estate as the 12<sup>th</sup> confirmed case, albeit on different floors. Upon a site visit with the advice of Professor Yuen Kwok-yung, CHP observed that the possibility of disconnected vent pipes without proper sealing triggering the spread of the virus could not be ruled out. Evacuation was immediately arranged and about 100 residents from 30 plus households were transferred to quarantine centres. Prof Yuen Kwok-yung joined two media briefings to explain his assessment of the incident</li> <li>● Representatives from FHB, DH and HD briefed the Sha Tin District Council at its special meeting about</li> </ul>

Date	Event
	<p>the arrangement and justifications for using Chun Yeung Estate as a quarantine centre</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● WHO announced a name for the new coronavirus disease “COVID-19”</li> </ul>
<p>12 February 2020 (Wednesday)</p> <p>[No. of confirmed cases in Hong Kong: 50]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Persons under compulsory quarantine who failed to share their real-time locations with their mobile phones at the BCPs would be requested to wear electronic wristbands so that they can be monitored as to whether they are staying at the dwelling places</li> </ul>
<p>13 February 2020 (Thursday)</p> <p>[No. of confirmed cases in Hong Kong: 53]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The Government announced that the special work arrangement for government departments would be extended until 23 February in order to reduce social contacts and the risk of the spread of the novel coronavirus in the community, subject to review closer to the time</li> <li>● EDB announced that all schools in Hong Kong would not resume classes before 16 March</li> <li>● CE met with Expert Advisory Panel to seek their expert advice</li> </ul>
<p>14 February 2020 (Friday)</p> <p>[No. of confirmed cases in Hong Kong: 56]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The Government announced that ImmD and the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office (Tokyo) would assist Hong Kong residents quarantined on the “Diamond Princess” cruise ship</li> <li>● SFH attended a meeting with the Chairperson/Vice-Chairperson of the District Councils to brief them on the latest Government actions in combating the disease and addressing their questions and concerns</li> </ul>
<p>15 February 2020 (Saturday)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● CE chaired the seventh meeting of Steering Committee cum Command Centre in accordance with the Emergency Response Level under the Plan</li> <li>● The Government announced that it was arranging chartered flights to take the Hong Kong residents</li> </ul>

Date	Event
	<p>quarantined on the “Diamond Princess” cruise ship back to Hong Kong free of charge as soon as possible after they are permitted to disembark and land.</p>
<p>16 February 2020 (Sunday)</p> <p>[No. of confirmed cases in Hong Kong: 57]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● CE, accompanied by SFH, inspected anti-epidemic work at various locations including the Junior Police Call Permanent Activity Centre in Pat Heung, the Shenzhen Bay Control Point and the Infectious Disease Centre of Princess Margaret Hospital</li> </ul>
<p>17 February 2020 (Monday)</p> <p>[No. of confirmed cases in Hong Kong: 60]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The Scientific Committee on Emerging and Zoonotic Diseases and the Scientific Committee on Infection Control under the CHP of DH convened the third joint meeting to review the measures in light of the latest situation of novel coronavirus infection in Hong Kong</li> </ul>
<p>18 February 2020 (Tuesday)</p> <p>[No. of confirmed cases in Hong Kong: 62]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● CE, all Principal Officials and a number of Executive Council Members have joined/will join various non-governmental organisations to conduct visits and distribute surgical masks to persons in need in different districts</li> </ul>
<p>19 February 2020 (Wednesday)</p> <p>[No. of confirmed cases in Hong Kong: 65]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● HA expanded the Enhanced Laboratory Surveillance Programme to cover adult out-patients with fever and respiratory symptoms or mild chest infection at Accident and Emergency Departments (“AEDs”) and General Out-patient Clinics (“GOPCs”)</li> <li>● CS, together with SFH and other relevant Principal Officials, attended LegCo to respond to two urgent questions raised by LegCo Members</li> </ul>
<p>20 February 2020 (Thursday)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● A total of 106 Hong Kong residents on board the “Diamond Princess” cruise ship arrived at Hong Kong from Tokyo on a chartered flight arranged by the</li> </ul>

Date	Event
[No. of confirmed cases in Hong Kong: 68, and no. of probable case: 1]	<p>Government. All passengers were sent to the quarantine centre in Chun Yeung Estate for 14-day quarantine</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The Government announced that the special work arrangement for government departments would be extended until 1 March 2020 subject to review closer to the time. While it remained the Government’s top priority to prevent and control the spread of the disease, preparations would be made for the gradual resumption of public services</li> </ul>
21 February 2020 (Friday)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● LegCo Finance Committee approved the injection of \$30 billion into the Anti-epidemic Fund</li> <li>● The Government released an enhanced website “COVID-19 Thematic Website” (<a href="http://www.coronavirus.gov.hk/eng/index.html">www.coronavirus.gov.hk/eng/index.html</a>) and a Telegram channel, “Hong Kong Anti-epidemic Information Channel”, to enhance dissemination of information through social media and online platforms</li> </ul>
22 February 2020 (Saturday)  [No. of confirmed cases in Hong Kong: 69, and no. of probable case: 1]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Second batch of 84 Hong Kong residents on board the “Diamond Princess” cruise ship arrived at Hong Kong from Tokyo on a chartered flight arranged by the Government. All passengers were sent to the quarantine centre in Chun Yeung Estate for 14-day quarantine</li> <li>● Among the passengers on the flight were two Macao residents. The Macao Special Administrative Region Government has arranged a coach to pick up the two Macao residents directly at HKIA and return to Macao via HZMB</li> <li>● The Government announced that since the compulsory quarantine measure was introduced on 8 February 2020, the first batch of 663 persons had finished their 14-day compulsory quarantine at 0:00am and none of them became confirmed cases during the quarantine period</li> </ul>

Date	Event
<p>23 February 2020 (Sunday)</p> <p>[No. of confirmed cases in Hong Kong: 74]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Third batch of five Hong Kong residents on board the “Diamond Princess” cruise ship arrived at Hong Kong from Tokyo on a chartered flight arranged by the Government. All passengers were sent to the quarantine centre in Chun Yeung Estate for 14-day quarantine</li> <li>● CE met with Expert Advisory Panel to seek their expert advice</li> <li>● CE chaired the eighth meeting of Steering Committee cum Command Centre in accordance with the Emergency Response Level under the Plan</li> </ul>
<p>24 February 2020 (Monday)</p> <p>[No. of confirmed cases in Hong Kong: 81]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The Government announced that chartered flights would be arranged to bring back Hong Kong people in Hubei Province in batches</li> <li>● HA announced the Special Emergency Response Allowance for staff engaging in high risk duties under Emergency Response Level in response to COVID-19 epidemic</li> <li>● In light of the health risks arising from the outbreak of COVID-19 in <b>Korea</b>, the Government issued a <b>Red Outbound Travel Alert</b> (“OTA”) on the country and announced entry restrictions and quarantine requirements for those with travel history to Korea</li> <li>● The Government introduced a special scheme to deliver prescription medications to Hong Kong residents who are currently residing on the Mainland. Priority is given to help those who are currently located in Guangdong and Fujian Provinces who will run out of medications on or before end-March</li> <li>● CHP has updated the relevant reporting criteria of “Severe Respiratory Disease associated with a Novel Infectious Agent” to enhance surveillance of suspected cases with travel history to the Mainland or Korea</li> </ul>
<p>25 February 2020 (Tuesday)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Restrictions are imposed on non-Hong Kong residents arriving from <b>Korea</b> from entering Hong Kong with</li> </ul>

Date	Event
[No. of confirmed cases in Hong Kong: 85]	<p>effect from 6 a.m.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Starting from 6 a.m., DH’s Port Health Division will issue quarantine orders under the Prevention and Control of Disease Regulation (Cap. 599A) to Hong Kong residents returning to Hong Kong who have been to Daegu and Gyeongsangbuk-do in Korea in the past 14 days and arrange them to stay in quarantine centre for quarantine</li> <li>● Hong Kong residents returning from other cities and provinces of Korea will be required to undergo home quarantine and medical surveillance for 14 days</li> <li>● EDB announced that all schools in Hong Kong would not resume classes before 20 April</li> <li>● EDB and Hong Kong Examinations Assessment Authority (“HKEAA”) announced the commencement of the HKDSE written examinations on 27 March and various special arrangements and enhanced precautionary measures</li> </ul>
<p>26 February 2020 (Wednesday)</p> <p>[No. of confirmed cases in Hong Kong: 91]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● CS chaired the first meeting of the Anti-epidemic Fund Steering Committee</li> <li>● The Government announced registration arrangement for first batch of chartered flights taking Hong Kong people in Hubei Province back to Hong Kong</li> </ul>
<p>28 February 2020 (Friday)</p> <p>[No. of confirmed cases in Hong Kong: 94]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The Government issued a Red OTA on the Emilia-Romagna, Lombardy and Veneto regions in <b>Italy</b> and alerted the public about the outbreak of COVID-19 cases and associated health risk in <b>Iran</b> under the Red OTA in force</li> <li>● DH uploaded the list of buildings where persons under compulsory quarantine pursuant to the Compulsory Quarantine of Certain Persons Arriving at Hong Kong Regulation (Cap. 599C) are conducting quarantine onto the Government’s “COVID-19 Thematic Website”</li> </ul>

Date	Event
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The Scientific Committee on Emerging and Zoonotic Diseases and the Scientific Committee on Infection Control under the CHP of DH convened the fourth joint meeting to review the measures in light of the latest local and global situation of novel coronavirus infection</li> <li>● CHP has updated relevant reporting criteria of “Severe Respiratory Disease associated with a Novel Infectious Agent” to enhance surveillance of suspected cases with travel history to a place with active community transmission of COVID-19</li> <li>● A pet dog of a confirmed patient was tested weak positive to COVID-19 virus on multiple occasions by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (“AFCD”). The dog has been put under quarantine at AFCD’s facility</li> <li>● HA widened the scope of the Enhanced Laboratory Surveillance Programme at AEDs and GOPCs to cover both adult and paediatric outpatients with fever and respiratory symptoms, or mild chest infection; or fever or respiratory symptoms subject to clinical assessment of physician in charge</li> </ul>
<p>29 February 2020 (Saturday)</p> <p>[No. of confirmed cases in Hong Kong: 95]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● CE chaired the ninth meeting of Steering Committee cum Command Centre in accordance with the Emergency Response Level under the Plan</li> </ul>
<p>1 March 2020 (Sunday)</p> <p>[No. of confirmed cases in Hong Kong: 98, and no. of probable cases:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Starting from 0:00 a.m., the DH’s Port Health Division would issue quarantine orders under the Prevention and Control of Disease Regulation (Cap. 599A) to people (regardless of whether they are Hong Kong residents) arriving Hong Kong who have been to the Emilia-Romagna, Lombardy or Veneto regions in Italy or Iran in the past 14 days and arrange them to stay in</li> </ul>



Date	Event
2]	quarantine centre for quarantine
<p>2 March 2020 (Monday)</p> <p>[No. of confirmed cases in Hong Kong: 100, and no. of probable case: 1]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Subject to targeted social distancing, and with special arrangements and precautionary measures taken, government departments started to gradually resume more public services in a smooth and orderly manner. The arrangements and measures aim at reducing social contact and protecting the health of the staff and members of the public</li> </ul>
<p>3 March 2020 (Tuesday)</p> <p>[No. of confirmed cases in Hong Kong: 100, and no. of probable case: 1]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● CE met with Expert Advisory Panel to seek their expert advice</li> </ul>
<p>4 March 2020 (Wednesday)</p> <p>[No. of confirmed cases in Hong Kong: 104, and no. of probable case: 1]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● HA further expanded the Enhanced Laboratory Surveillance Programme at AEDs and GOPCs to cover around 10 viruses such as Influenza, Parainfluenza and Rhinovirus</li> <li>● On 4 and 5 March, the Government arranged the first batch of four chartered flights to bring 469 Hong Kong residents in Hubei Province back to Hong Kong</li> </ul>
<p>5 March 2020 (Thursday)</p> <p>[No. of confirmed cases in Hong Kong: 104, and no. of probable case: 1]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● HKEAA started to distribute HKDSE admission forms to schools along with face masks on the basis of one face mask for each examination day for all candidates</li> </ul>

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>
<p>8 March 2020 (Sunday)</p> <p>[No. of confirmed cases in Hong Kong: 114, and no. of probable case: 1]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The HA announced that one more GOPC will be covered by the Enhanced Laboratory Surveillance Programme from 9 March, making for a total of 64 GOPCs and 17 AEDs</li> <li>● Starting from 00:00, the health declaration arrangements at the HKIA will be extended from inbound flights from the Mainland to all flights arriving in Hong Kong. All inbound travellers arriving at the HKIA are required to complete and submit a health declaration form</li> </ul>
<p>9 March 2020 (Monday)</p> <p>[No. of confirmed cases in Hong Kong: 115, and no. of probable case: 1]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● CE chaired the tenth meeting of Steering Committee cum Command Centre in accordance with the Emergency Response Level under the Plan</li> <li>● The Innovation and Technology Commission launched a special call under the Public Sector Trial Scheme for projects to support product development and application of technologies for the prevention and control of the disease, and started taking applications</li> </ul>
<p>10 March 2020 (Tuesday)</p> <p>[No. of confirmed cases in Hong Kong: 120, and no. of probable case: 1]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● SFH briefed the LegCo Panel on Health Services on the Government's latest measures for prevention and control of COVID-19</li> <li>● The Government issued the Red OTA on the Bourgogne-Franche-Comte and Grand Est regions in France, the North Rhine-Westphalia region in Germany, Hokkaido in Japan as well as the La Rioja, Madrid and Pais Vasco regions in Spain. Also, the Government extended the Red OTA in force on Emilia-Romagna, Lombardy and Veneto regions in Italy to cover the entire country</li> </ul>
<p>12 March 2020 (Thursday)</p> <p>[No. of confirmed cases in Hong</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● AFCD reported that the blood test result of a pet dog which had repeatedly tested weak positive for COVID-19 virus is negative</li> </ul>

Date	Event
Kong: 131, and no. of probable case: 1]	
13 March 2020 (Friday)  [No. of confirmed cases in Hong Kong: 137, and no. of probable case: 1]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The Government issued the Red OTA on a number of European countries (Schengen Area), including Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Principality of Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovak Republic, Republic of Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, and Switzerland</li> </ul>
14 March 2020 (Saturday)  [No. of confirmed cases in Hong Kong: 141, and no. of probable case: 1]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Starting from 00:00, DH's Port Health Division officers will issue quarantine orders under the Prevention and Control of Disease Regulation (Cap. 599A) to people arriving in Hong Kong who have been to Italy (except Emilia-Romagna, Lombardy and Veneto regions), Bourgogne-Franche-Comte and Grand Est regions in France, the North Rhine-Westphalia region in Germany, Hokkaido in Japan as well as the La Rioja, Madrid and Pais Vasco regions in Spain in the past 14 days, regardless of whether they are Hong Kong residents. They will be subject to compulsory home quarantine</li> </ul>
15 March 2020 (Sunday)  [No. of confirmed cases in Hong Kong: 148, and no. of probable case: 1]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● CE chaired the 11<sup>th</sup> meeting of Steering Committee cum Command Centre in accordance with the Emergency Response Level under the Plan</li> <li>● The Government issued the Red OTA on Ireland, the United Kingdom and the United States</li> <li>● As the 59-year-old male patient of the 140<sup>th</sup> case confirmed on 14 March and a couple who had joined the Egypt tour group (the 119<sup>th</sup> and 124<sup>th</sup> cases confirmed on 10 March and 11 March respectively) all reside at the "13" unit on different floors in Heng Tai House, Fu Heng Estate, CHP proactively followed up</li> </ul>

Date	Event
	<p>to investigate whether the three cases were related. Personnel from CHP conducted interviews with all residents living at the “13” and “14” units of the whole of Heng Tai House, Fu Heng Estate. In view that the units of the confirmed patients were on the 32<sup>nd</sup> and 34<sup>th</sup> floors respectively, CHP decided to take prudent infection control measures, and issued quarantine orders to all asymptomatic residents of “13” and “14” units of the 29<sup>th</sup> to 34<sup>th</sup> floors and arranged for them to enter quarantine centres</p>
<p>16 March 2020 (Monday)</p> <p>[No. of confirmed cases in Hong Kong: 157, and no. of probable case: 1]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● CE met with Expert Advisory Panel to seek their expert advice</li> <li>● The Government announced that it would arrange the second batch of chartered flights to take Hong Kong residents currently in Xiaogan, Xianning, Huangshi and Wuhan in Hubei Province back to Hong Kong.</li> </ul>
<p>17 March 2020 (Tuesday)</p> <p>[No. of confirmed cases in Hong Kong: 167, and no. of probable case: 1]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The Government issued the Red OTA on all overseas countries/territories based on public health considerations</li> <li>● Starting from 00:00, DH’s Port Health Division officers will issue quarantine orders under the Prevention and Control of Disease Regulation (Cap. 599A) to people arriving in Hong Kong who have been to Korea (except Daegu and Gyeongsangbuk-do, and also applicable to non-Hong Kong residents) and Schengen Area in Europe (i.e. Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy (except Emilia-Romagna, Lombardy and Veneto regions), Latvia, Principality of Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovak Republic, Republic of Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, and Switzerland) in the past</li> </ul>

Date	Event
	<p>14 days, regardless of whether they are Hong Kong residents. They will be subject to compulsory home quarantine</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Persons staying in temporary accommodation provided by the Government will be charged a daily fee of \$200 for accommodation and meal arrangements</li> </ul>
<p>18 March 2020 (Wednesday)</p> <p>[No. of confirmed cases in Hong Kong: 192, and no. of probable case: 1]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The Government gazetted the Compulsory Quarantine of Persons Arriving at Hong Kong from Foreign Places Regulation (Cap. 599E), mandating persons arriving in Hong Kong from all places outside China to undergo quarantine</li> </ul>
<p>19 March 2020 (Thursday)</p> <p>[No. of confirmed cases in Hong Kong: 208, and no. of probable case: 1]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Starting from 00:00, DH's Port Health Division officers will issue quarantine orders to people arriving in Hong Kong who had been to all overseas countries/territories in the past 14 days, regardless of whether they are Hong Kong residents</li> <li>● CHP further extended the Enhanced Laboratory Surveillance Programme to provide testing service for COVID-19 to high-risk persons who need to be quarantined under the Compulsory Quarantine of Persons Arriving at Hong Kong from Foreign Places Regulation (Cap. 599E) despite being asymptomatic</li> </ul>
<p>20 March 2020 (Friday)</p> <p>[No. of confirmed cases in Hong Kong: 256, and no. of probable case: 1]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Under the instruction of the Government's Steering Committee in relation to COVID-19, HA set up test centres at the AsiaWorld-Expo and North Lantau Hospital for testing inbound travellers with upper respiratory symptoms</li> <li>● SFH briefed the LegCo Panel on Health Services on the Government's latest measures for prevention and control of COVID-19</li> </ul>

Date	Event
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The Office of the Government Chief Information Officer finished sending SMS messages to all inbound travellers arriving at Hong Kong via HKIA before noon for activating the “StayHomeSafe” mobile app</li> <li>● The Government announced that, under the special scheme for delivering prescription medications to Hong Kong residents who are currently located in Guangdong and Fujian Provinces with urgent need for medications, priority would be extended to process cases in which prescription drugs would run out on or before 30 April 2020</li> <li>● DH increased the number of specimen collection points under the Enhanced Laboratory Surveillance Scheme to cover some general out-patient clinics under HA and 13 designated chest clinics and dermatological clinics under DH</li> </ul>
<p>21 March 2020 (Saturday)</p> <p>[No. of confirmed cases in Hong Kong: 273, and no. of probable case: 1]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The Government announced that it would commission a total of four chartered flights on 25 and 26 March to bring back Hong Kong residents in Hubei</li> <li>● CE met with Expert Advisory Panel to seek their expert advice</li> <li>● CE led a press conference to announce the following measures to strengthen prevention and control of the outbreak, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) enhancing virus testing for returnees to Hong Kong;</li> <li>(b) rationalise public services and temporarily close down some facilities;</li> <li>(c) HKDSE to be postponed to 24 April 2020;</li> <li>(d) strengthen enforcement actions to combat breaches of quarantine orders; and</li> <li>(e) strengthen measures at elderly homes to prevent disease outbreak</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p>23 March 2020 (Monday)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● CE led a press conference to announce measures in the following four areas to further strengthen the</li> </ul>

Date	Event
<p>[No. of confirmed cases in Hong Kong: 356, and no. of probable case: 1]</p>	<p>prevention and control of the outbreak, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) starting from 0:00am on 25 March 2020, implement measures to prevent imported cases and cut the virus transmission chain<sup>4</sup>;</li> <li>(b) mandating that all arriving persons from the United Kingdom, other countries in Europe and the United States to undergo virus tests;</li> <li>(c) stringent enforcement actions to combat breaches of quarantine orders; and</li> <li>(d) further promoting reduction of social contacts and gatherings</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● HA to set up triage and test centres at AEDs of public hospitals by phase to alleviate demands for isolation facilities at public hospitals</li> </ul>
<p>24 March 2020 (Tuesday)</p> <p>[No. of confirmed cases in Hong Kong: 386, and no. of probable case: 1]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The Government published in the Gazette the Compulsory Quarantine of Certain Persons Arriving at Hong Kong (Amendment) Regulation 2020 (the Amendment Regulation). The Amendment Regulation extends the compulsory 14-day quarantine arrangements to all persons arriving from or having stayed in Macao and Taiwan, in the past 14 days prior to arrival, in addition to those arriving from the Mainland. The Amendment Regulation will become effective from 0:00am on 25 March 2020</li> </ul>
<p>25 March 2020 (Wednesday)</p> <p>[No. of confirmed cases in Hong Kong: 410, and no. of probable case: 1]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● From 0:00am, 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 HKIA will be suspended; all travellers coming from Macao and Taiwan, including Hong Kong and non-Hong Kong residents, will be subject to a 14-day compulsory quarantine. The</li> </ul>

<sup>4</sup> For details, please see the entry for 25 March.

Date	Event
	<p>relevant arrangements will remain effective for 14 days tentatively</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● CHP further extended the Enhanced Laboratory Surveillance Scheme to provide testing service for COVID-19 to cover all arriving persons from the United Kingdom, other countries in Europe and the United States who are asymptomatic</li> <li>● The Government arranged the second batch of chartered flights to bring back Hong Kong residents in Hubei Province to Hong Kong. The first two chartered flights successfully brought back 281 Hong Kong residents in Hubei Province</li> </ul>
<p>27 March 2020 (Friday)</p> <p>[No. of confirmed cases in Hong Kong: 518, and no. of probable case: 1]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The Government gazetted the Prevention and Control of Disease (Requirement and Directions) (Business and Premises) Regulation (Cap. 599F). The Regulation will commence at 0.00 am on 28 March 2020 and remain in force for three months. At the same time, SFH issued two directions for 14 days through a notice published in the Gazette in accordance with the Regulation. The directions will take effect at 6pm on 28 March 2020</li> </ul>
<p>28 March 2020 (Saturday)</p> <p>[No. of confirmed cases in Hong Kong: 582, and no. of probable case: 1]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The two directions issued by SFH in accordance with the Prevention and Control of Disease (Requirement and Directions) (Business and Premises) Regulation (Cap. 599F) took effect at 6pm. The directions are –</li> </ul> <p>Direction 1 - Catering Business. The relevant requirements include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) the number of customers at any premises on which food or drink is sold or supplied for consumption on the premises (catering premises) at any one time must not exceed 50% of the normal seating capacity of the premises;</li> <li>(b) tables available for use or being used by customers within any catering premises must be</li> </ul>



Date	Event
	<p>arranged in a way to ensure there is a distance of at least 1.5 metres or some form of partition which could serve as effective buffer between one table and another table at the premises;</p> <p>(c) no more than 4 persons may be seated together at one table within any catering premises;</p> <p>(d) a person must wear a mask at any time within any catering premises, except when the person is consuming food or drink on the premises;</p> <p>(e) body temperature screening on a person must be conducted before the person is allowed to enter the catering premises; and</p> <p>(f) hand sanitisers must be provided at any catering premises for any person at the premises.</p> <p>Direction 2 - Scheduled Premises. All premises as listed below must be closed –</p> <p>(a) amusement game centres;</p> <p>(b) bathhouses;</p> <p>(c) fitness centres;</p> <p>(d) places of amusement;</p> <p>(e) places of public entertainment; and</p> <p>(f) premises that are maintained or intended to be maintained for hire for holding social gatherings (commonly known as “party room”)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The Government gazetted the Prevention and Control of Disease (Prohibition on Group Gathering) Regulation (Cap. 599G). The Regulation will commence at 0.00am on 29 March 2020 and remain in force for three months</li> <li>● CE chaired the 12<sup>th</sup> meeting of Steering Committee cum Command Centre in accordance with the Emergency Response Level under the Plan</li> </ul>

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>
<p>29 March 2020 (Sunday)</p> <p>[No. of confirmed cases in Hong Kong: 641, and no. of probable case: 1]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Starting from 0:00am, the prohibition of group gatherings with more than four people in public places under the Prevention and Control of Disease (Prohibition on Group Gathering) Regulation (Cap. 599G) came into force and will remain in effect for 14 days</li> <li>● DH further extended its Enhanced Laboratory Surveillance Programme to all asymptomatic inbound travellers arriving from all places under the Compulsory Quarantine of Persons Arriving at Hong Kong from Foreign Places Regulation (Cap. 599E)</li> </ul>
<p>30 March 2020 (Monday)</p> <p>[No. of confirmed cases in Hong Kong: 682, and no. of probable case: 1]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Three men were sentenced to immediate imprisonment for up to three months by magistrates' courts for violating the Compulsory Quarantine of Certain Persons Arriving at Hong Kong Regulation (Cap. 599C)</li> </ul>
<p>31 March 2020 (Tuesday)</p> <p>[No. of confirmed cases in Hong Kong: 714, and no. of probable case: 1]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Around 80 retrofitted units at the Junior Police Call Permanent Activity Centre at Pat Heung is put into use for quarantine purpose</li> <li>● To help Hong Kong residents stranded in Peru to leave the country smoothly, the Government announced that it would arrange a chartered flight to fly them from Lima to London, followed by a connecting flight with secured flight bookings back to Hong Kong</li> </ul>
<p>1 April 2020 (Wednesday)</p> <p>[No. of confirmed cases in Hong Kong: 765, and no. of probable</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The Government gazetted the Prevention and Control of Disease (Requirement and Directions) (Business and Premises) (Amendment) Regulation 2020 (the Amendment Regulation). In accordance with the Prevention and Control of Disease (Requirement and Directions) (Business and Premises) Regulation (the Regulation) (Cap. 599F) and the Amendment</li> </ul>

Date	Event
case: 1]	<p>Regulation above, SFH issued directions to be effective for 14 days from 6pm:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) the closure of karaoke establishments and the suspension of karaoke activities in catering premises and club-houses;</li> <li>(b) the closure of mahjong-tin kau establishments and the suspension of mahjong-tin kau activities in catering premises and club-houses;</li> <li>(c) the closure of establishment (commonly known as club or nightclub) that is open late into the night, usually for drinking, and dancing or other entertainment;</li> <li>(d) a person must wear a mask at any time where practicable within the beauty parlour, club-house and massage establishment premises as set out in Part 1 of Schedule 2 to that Regulation;</li> <li>(e) body temperature screening on a person must be conducted before the person is allowed to enter the beauty parlour, club-house and massage establishment premises as set out in Part 1 of Schedule 2 to that Regulation; and</li> <li>(f) hand sanitizers must be provided at any beauty parlour, club-house and massage establishment premises as set out in Part 1 of Schedule 2 to that Regulation</li> </ul>
<p>2 April 2020 (Thursday)</p> <p>[No. of confirmed cases in Hong Kong: 802, and no. of probable case: 1]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The Government introduces new measures to regulate businesses that sell or supply intoxicating liquors for on-site consumption. In accordance with the Prevention and Control of Disease (Requirements and Directions) (Business and Premises) Regulation (Cap. 599F), SFH issued directions through notices in the Gazette to be effective for 14 days from 6pm on 3 April 2020<sup>5</sup></li> </ul>

<sup>5</sup> For details, please see the entry for 3 April.

Date	Event
<p data-bbox="204 248 400 331">3 April 2020 (Friday)</p> <p data-bbox="204 394 480 622">[No. of confirmed cases in Hong Kong: 845, and no. of probable case: 1]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="512 248 1391 1144">● In accordance with the Prevention and Control of Disease (Requirements and Directions) (Business and Premises) Regulation (Cap. 599F), SFH issued directions to be effective from 6pm. The directions include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="576 488 1391 763">(a) any premises (commonly known as bar or pub) that is exclusively or mainly used for the sale or supply of intoxicating liquors as defined in section 53(1) of the Dutiable Commodities Ordinance (Cap. 109) (“intoxicating liquors”) for consumption in that premises must be closed;</li> <li data-bbox="576 779 1391 958">(b) 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; and</li> <li data-bbox="576 974 1391 1144">(c) any area in a club-house that is exclusively or mainly used for the sale or supply of intoxicating liquors for consumption in that area must be closed</li> </ul> </li> <li data-bbox="512 1205 1391 1480">● Participants of the Enhanced Laboratory Surveillance Programme 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 for COVID-19 testing</li> </ul>
<p data-bbox="204 1543 400 1626">4 April 2020 (Saturday)</p> <p data-bbox="204 1688 480 1917">[No. of confirmed cases in Hong Kong: 862, and no. of probable case: 1]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="512 1543 1391 1818">● A chartered flight taking Hong Kong residents out of Peru is scheduled to depart from Lima to London at around 5am. Upon arrival in London, the Hong Kong residents concerned will take an ordinary connecting flight with secured flight bookings back to Hong Kong. The cost will be borne by the users</li> </ul>

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>
<p>5 April 2020 (Sunday)</p> <p>[No. of confirmed cases in Hong Kong: 890, and no. of probable case: 1]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The test services for travellers entering Hong Kong with symptoms of upper respiratory symptoms are consolidated at the test centre at AsiaWorld-Expo. The test centre also handles suspected cases referred by CHP, including inbound travellers under home quarantine or close contacts of confirmed cases</li> <li>● The operating hours of passengers clearance services at the Passenger Clearance Building of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge Hong Kong Port are shortened to run from 10am to 8pm daily, while for the clearance services for private cars are shortened from 6am to 10pm daily, until further notice. The operating hours for cargo clearance are not be affected and remain unchanged (i.e. 24 hours daily)</li> <li>● 65 Hong Kong residents who took the chartered flights arranged by the Government safely arrived at Hong Kong from Peru and proceeded to CHP's testing centre at the AsiaWorld-Expo for COVID-19 testing</li> </ul>
<p>6 April 2020 (Monday)</p> <p>[No. of confirmed cases in Hong Kong: 915, and no. of probable case: 1]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The Government will extend, until further notice, the entry restriction on non-Hong Kong residents coming from overseas countries or regions by plane and those having been to overseas countries or regions in the past 14 days preceding arrival at Hong Kong. All transit services at HKIA will also continue to be suspended until further notice</li> </ul>
<p>8 April 2020 (Wednesday)</p> <p>[No. of confirmed cases in Hong Kong: 960, and no. of probable case: 1]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● In accordance with the Prevention and Control of Disease Regulation (Cap. 599A), DH mandates all asymptomatic inbound travellers arriving at HKIA to collect their deep throat saliva samples at the Temporary Specimen Collection Centre at the AsiaWorld-Expo for conducting testing for COVID-19. Also, for inbound travellers who have been to Hubei Province in the past 14 days arriving via land BCPs, specimen collection containers will be provided</li> </ul>

Date	Event
	<p>to them by DH staff for collection of their deep throat saliva samples for virus testing when they are undergoing compulsory home quarantine</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● In accordance with 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), SFH issued directions through notices in the Gazette to be effective for 14 days from 0.00am on 10 April till 23 April 2020<sup>6</sup></li> </ul>
<p>9 April 2020 (Thursday)</p> <p>[No. of confirmed cases in Hong Kong: 973, and no. of probable case: 1]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Starting from 9 April 2020, besides collecting their deep throat saliva samples at DH's Temporary Specimen Collection Centre at the AsiaWorld-Expo, asymptomatic inbound travellers arriving on flights from the United Kingdom must also wait for the test results there</li> </ul>
<p>10 April 2020 (Friday)</p> <p>[No. of confirmed cases in Hong Kong: 989, and no. of probable case: 1]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Directions issued by SFH through notices in the Gazette in accordance with 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) will take effect from 0.00am till 23 April 2020. The directions include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) extend the requirements imposed on all catering businesses to 23 April 2020;</li> <li>(b) beauty parlours and massage establishments be closed and extend the closure of other Scheduled Premises listed in Cap 599F to 23 April 2020;</li> <li>(c) extend the relevant requirements imposed on all club-houses to 23 April 2020;</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

<sup>6</sup> For details, please see the entry for 10 April

Date	Event
	<p>(d) the prohibition of group gatherings with more than four people in public places under Cap. 599G continue to remain in force until 23 April 2020</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The Shenzhen Municipal Government requires all cross-boundary goods vehicle drivers who enter Shenzhen via Shenzhen ports to present the “i Shenzhen” health certification code and proof of a negative result of a nucleic acid test conducted within the previous seven days. The Zhuhai Municipal Government also requires all cross-boundary goods vehicle drivers who enter Zhuhai via Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge to present proof of a negative result of a nucleic acid test conducted within the previous seven days</li> <li>● 27 Hong Kong residents who left Morocco on a chartered flight arranged by the Chinese Embassy in the Kingdom of Morocco arrived at Guangzhou. Among them, 26 people subsequently took the coaches arranged by the Hong Kong SAR Government to return to Hong Kong via the Shenzhen Bay Port (1 of them subsequently became a confirmed case)</li> </ul>
<p>13 April 2020 (Monday)</p> <p>[No. of confirmed cases in Hong Kong: 1 009, and no. of probable case: 1]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Starting from 13 April 2020, DH requires travellers arriving on flights from Europe and the United States to wait for their test results at the Temporary Specimen Collection Centre at the AsiaWorld-Expo after collecting their deep throat saliva samples there</li> </ul>
<p>14 April 2020 (Tuesday)</p> <p>[No. of confirmed cases in Hong Kong: 1 012, and</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● CE chaired the 13<sup>th</sup> meeting of Steering Committee cum Command Centre in accordance with the Emergency Response Level under the Plan</li> <li>● CE met with Expert Advisory Panel to seek their expert advice</li> <li>● Two of the member companies of the Cyberport</li> </ul>

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>
no. of probable case: 1]	Startup Alumni Association, GoGo Tech Limited and HK PICK-UP LIMITED, start providing door-to-door specimen collection service for private doctors who provide virus testing under CHP's Enhanced Laboratory Surveillance Programme
15 April 2020 (Wednesday)  [No. of confirmed cases in Hong Kong: 1 016, and no. of probable case: 1]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The Secretary for Education and Secretary General of the HKEAA held a press conference. Having considered the latest outbreak situation and consulted the views of CHP, they announced the arrangements for HKDSE, which will commence on 24 April 2020</li> </ul>
18 April 2020 (Saturday)  [No. of confirmed cases in Hong Kong: 1 023, and no. of probable case: 1]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● LegCo Finance Committee approved the Government's funding application for the second round of the Anti-epidemic Fund and other relief measures</li> </ul>
19 April 2020 (Sunday)  [No. of confirmed cases in Hong Kong: 1 025, and no. of probable case: 1]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● With the declining number of inbound travellers, HA's test centre at AsiaWorld Expo suspended operations from noon to refocus manpower resources to hospital services. The HA Major Incident Control Centre will continue to liaise closely with DH to triage inbound travellers with respiratory symptoms, people undergoing home quarantine or close contacts of confirmed cases, etc. to various AEDs of public hospitals for testing</li> <li>● DH requires travellers on flights arriving in the morning to collect their deep throat saliva samples at the Temporary Specimen Collection Centre at the AsiaWorld-Expo and wait for the test results there</li> </ul>



Date	Event
	(same as the arrangement for travellers on flights arriving from the United Kingdom, the United States and other areas in Europe)
<p>20 April 2020 (Monday)</p> <p>[No. of confirmed cases in Hong Kong: 1 025, and no. of probable case: 1]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● On a trial basis, DH provides to all inbound travellers who collect their deep throat saliva samples at the Temporary Specimen Collection Centre at the AsiaWorld-Expo with an extra specimen collection container, and requests that they collect their deep throat saliva samples on their own on the 12<sup>th</sup> day of their home quarantine for another round of virus testing</li> </ul>
<p>22 April 2020 (Wednesday)</p> <p>[No. of confirmed cases in Hong Kong: 1 034, and no. of probable case: 1]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The Holding Centre for Test Result set up in the Regal Oriental Hotel by DH comes into operation. Starting from the same day, for travellers arriving on flights in the afternoon or at night, as their tests will not be completed on the same day, they need to be transported to the above Holding Centre for Test Results to wait for their results after collection of deep throat saliva samples at DH's Temporary Specimen Collection Centre</li> </ul>
<p>24 April 2020 (Friday)</p> <p>[No. of confirmed cases in Hong Kong: 1 036, and no. of probable case: 1]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The Special Chinese Medicine (CM) Out-patient Programme provides free CM outpatient rehabilitation service to discharged persons who had received treatment for COVID-19 at Chinese Medicine Clinic cum Training and Research Centres</li> </ul>
<p>28 April 2020 (Tuesday)</p> <p>[No. of confirmed cases in Hong</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The Government gazetted amendments to the Prevention and Control of Disease Ordinance (Cap. 599) and its subsidiary legislations and made the Compulsory Quarantine of Certain Persons Arriving at Hong Kong (Amendment) (No.2) Regulation 2020.</li> </ul>

Date	Event
<p>Kong: 1 038, and no. of probable case: 1]</p>	<p>They will take effect starting from 29 April 2020 at 0:00 am. The major amendments include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ extending the expiry date for the Compulsory Quarantine of Certain Persons Arriving at Hong Kong Regulation (Cap. 599C) to 7 June 2020;</li> <li>➤ broadening the scope of exemption of persons or category of persons from compulsory quarantine;</li> <li>➤ empowering the Director of Health to cancel quarantine order;</li> <li>➤ updating and standardising the use of “coronavirus disease 2019” as the latest nomenclature for statutory notifiable disease in Hong Kong;</li> <li>➤ extending the expiry date of the Prevention and Control of Disease (Disclosure of Information) Regulation (Cap. 599D) to 31 August 2020; and</li> <li>➤ empowering designated officers in addition to the Director of Health to perform a function under Schedule 2 to the Prevention and Control of Disease (Prohibition on Group Gathering) Regulation (Cap. 599G)</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The Government announced that, upon the instruction of the Steering Committee cum Command Centre in relation to the COVID-19 virus, the Government will resume public services starting from 4 May 2020 in a phased manner</li> </ul>
<p>29 April 2020 (Wednesday)</p> <p>[No. of confirmed cases in Hong Kong: 1 038, and no. of probable case: 1]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● A flight from Doha carrying around 170 Hong Kong residents returning from Pakistan on their own arrived at Hong Kong. The relevant Hong Kong residents immediately had their deep throat saliva samples collected at the Temporary Specimen Collection Centre and were sent to the quarantine centre in Chun Yeung Estate for 14-day compulsory quarantine</li> </ul>

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>
<p>30 April 2020 (Thursday)</p> <p>[No. of confirmed cases in Hong Kong: 1 038, and no. of probable case: 1]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● A chartered flight taking Hong Kong residents stranded in Pakistan back home arrived at HKIA from Islamabad. The 319 passengers on board the flight immediately had their deep throat saliva samples collected at the Temporary Specimen Collection Centre upon their arrival at Hong Kong and were sent to the quarantine centre in Chun Yeung Estate for 14-day compulsory quarantine. On the same day, another flight from Doha carrying around 60 Hong Kong residents returning from Pakistan on their own arrived at Hong Kong. The relevant passengers were subject to the same arrangement</li> </ul>
<p>2 May 2020 (Saturday)</p> <p>[No. of confirmed cases in Hong Kong: 1 040, and no. of probable case: 1]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● CE chaired the 14<sup>th</sup> meeting of Steering Committee cum Command Centre in accordance with the Emergency Response Level under the Plan</li> <li>● CE met with Expert Advisory Panel to seek their expert advice</li> </ul>
<p>5 May 2020 (Tuesday)</p> <p>[No. of confirmed cases in Hong Kong: 1 041, and no. of probable case: 1]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The Government announced that, in accordance with 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), directions will be issued through notices in the Gazette to relax some of the social distancing measures, effective from 8 May to 21 May 2020, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ relax some of the social distancing measures in relation to catering business premises and Scheduled Premises under Cap 599F, mainly the number of persons allowed to be seated together at one table within any catering premises to be increased from 4 to 8; bars or pubs and 7 types of</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Date	Event
	<p>Scheduled Premises (amusement game centre, fitness centre, place of amusement, place of public entertainment, beauty parlour, massage establishment and mahjong-tin kau premises) can resume operations but must follow specified preventive measures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ the number of persons allowed in group gatherings in public places under Cap. 599G to be relaxed from 4 to 8 and expand the scope of existing exempted group gatherings. To dovetail Cap. 599F and Cap. 599G, gatherings within Scheduled Premises which can be opened according to directions issued under Section 8 of Cap. 599F will not be subject to the restriction on the number of persons in group gatherings under Cap 599G</li> <li>● The Government announced that it will distribute reusable CuMask+™ to all Hong Kong citizens, and distribute to each household a pack of 10 disposable masks. At the same time, the Government will distribute masks to employees of schools, elderly care homes and residential care homes for persons with disabilities and cleansing workers engaged by the Government's outsourced cleansing service contractors. The Government will also distribute 500 000 masks to healthcare professionals in the private sector</li> <li>● The Government announced the arrangement for resumption of schools by phase</li> </ul>

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## Summary of latest measures on catering business and scheduled premises (with effect from 8 to 21 May 2020)

(Bathhouse, party room, club or nightclub and karaoke establishment should remain closed)

	Catering business		Scheduled premises						
	Catering business	Bars and Pubs	Amusement game centre	Fitness centre	Place of amusement	Place of public entertainment	Beauty parlour and massage establishment	Club-house	Mahjong-tin kau premises
Mask on requirement	✓ (except when consuming food/drink)		✓	✓ (before and after exercise)	✓	✓	✓ (except when having facial treatment)	✓ (except when consuming food/drink)	✓
Screening of body temperature	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Provision of hand sanitiser	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Distancing	1.5m or some form of effective partitioning between tables		Game stations, machines and facilities next to one another must not be made available for use at the same time; or some form of effective partitioning between each	1.5m or some form of effective partitioning between fitness stations, machines and equipment in use	<b>Billiard establishment and public bowling-alley</b> – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Clean and disinfect facilities/accessories before use</li> <li>● ≤8 persons at each table/lane</li> <li>● Open alternate table/lanes only</li> </ul>	Entertainment stations, machines and facilities next to one another must not be made available for use at the same time; or some form of effective partitioning between each	1.5m or some form of effective partitioning between service beds or seats	See below on various facilities	Tables next to one another must not be made available for use at the same time; some form of effective partitioning between each table
Cleaning and disinfecting	N/A		✓	Fitness station, machine and equipment cleaned and disinfected before <b>and after</b> each use	<b>Ice-skating rink</b> – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Group/private lessons only</li> <li>● ≤8 persons in each group</li> <li>● 1.5m or some form of effective partitioning between each group</li> </ul>	✓	Equipment, tools and service places or areas disinfected before <b>and after</b> each use	See below on various facilities	Replace tile sets with cleaned ones every time a new player joins; or application of disinfection materials
Headcount	≤8 persons per table	≤4 persons per table	≤8 persons at each game station, machine and facility	≤8 persons in each group training or classes including the coach		≤8 persons at each entertainment station, machines and facilities, where applicable	N/A	See below on various facilities	N/A
Showering facilities <sup>1</sup>	N/A		N/A	✓	✓	N/A	✓	✓	
Steam and sauna facilities	N/A		N/A	Close	Close	N/A	Close	Close	
Ball pits	N/A		N/A	N/A	N/A	Close	N/A	Close	
Specific requirements and restrictions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Suspend karaoke activities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Suspend karaoke activities</li> <li>● 50% seating capacity</li> <li>● No live performance or dancing</li> </ul>	N/A	N/A	See above on various facilities	<b>Cinemas</b> – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 50% seating capacity;</li> <li>● ≤ 8 consecutive seats in the same row</li> <li>● No eating or drinking inside a house</li> <li>● Catering premises to comply with the applicable directions</li> <li>● Cleaning and disinfection of each house after each screening</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● All staff must wear protective gears such as mask and face shield/goggles all the time when providing services</li> <li>● Change or sanitise protective gears after providing service to a customer</li> <li>● All towels and consumables used must be changed after each use</li> <li>● Steam machines and vaporised chemicals must not be used</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Suspend karaoke activities</li> <li>● Close party rooms</li> <li>● <b>Catering premises, fitness centres, beauty parlours, massage establishments</b> and parts for providing <b>mahjong/ tin kau playing facility</b>, to follow relevant directions/requirements/restrictions</li> </ul>	

<sup>1</sup> The following infection control recommendations must be applied to showering facilities: (a) keep social distancing between users of at least 1.5 metres by opening alternate cubicles or shower heads only; (b) carry out cleaning and disinfection of the shower cubicles at least once every four hours; (c) carry out regular environmental cleaning and disinfection on the facilities including storage cabinet at least daily; and (d) forbid sharing of personal items such as towel.

## Annex 4

Schedule 1 to the Prevention and Control of Disease (Prohibition on Group Gathering) Regulation (“the Regulation”) (Cap. 599G) lists out the following 13 exempted group gatherings:

1. Group gathering for the purposes of or related to transportation
2. Group gathering for performing any governmental function
3. Group gathering for performing any function of a statutory body or an advisory body of the Government
4. Group gathering at a place of work for the purposes of work
5. Group gathering for obtaining or receiving hospital or healthcare service at a healthcare facility
6. Group gathering of persons living in the same household
7. Group gathering for—
  - (a) the conduct of proceedings in a court, magistrates’ court or tribunal;
  - (b) the performance of any function of a judge or judicial officer; or
  - (c) the conduct of any other business of the Judiciary
8. Group gathering necessary for the proceedings in the Legislative Council or a District Council
9. Group gathering during a funeral, or during any other occasion for mourning for or remembering a deceased who has yet to be buried or cremated (including any ritual or ceremony held in the vicinity of the place where the deceased died or suffered fatal injury to mourn for the death of the deceased)
10. Group gathering of not more than 50 persons during a wedding ceremony at which no food or drink is served
11. Group gathering during any of the following meetings at which no food or drink is served and, in the case of a group gathering of more than 50 persons, measures are in place for separating them in different rooms or partitioned areas, each accommodating not more than 50 persons—
  - (a) a meeting of a body that must be held within a specified period in order to comply with any Ordinance or other regulatory instrument that governs the operation of the body or its business;
  - (b) a shareholders’ meeting of a company listed on a recognised stock market (as defined by section 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 1 to the

Securities and Futures Ordinance (Cap. 571)) that is held in accordance with any Ordinance or other regulatory instrument that governs the operation of the company or its business

12. Group gathering held for imparting information or skills, or handling supplies or items, that are conducive to the prevention and control of the specified disease

13. Group gathering at any premises to which a direction issued under section 8 of the Prevention and Control of Disease (Requirements and Directions) (Business and Premises) Regulation (Cap. 599F) applies, except premises that, according to the direction, must be closed

In addition to the 13 exemptions listed under Schedule 1, the Regulation also empowers the Chief Secretary for Administration to permit any group gathering if the Chief Secretary for Administration is satisfied that the taking place of the gathering -

- (a) is necessary for governmental operation; or
- (b) because of the exceptional circumstances of the case, otherwise serves the public interest of Hong Kong.