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

本函檔號 Our Ref : FHB/H/16/123
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8 April 2020

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

Dear Ms LAM,

Legislative Council Panel on Health Services
Letter from Hon Tanya CHAN

Thank you for your letter of 2 April 2020 addressed to the Secretary for Food and Health. Our response to the questions raised by Hon Tanya CHAN is at **Annex**.

Yours sincerely,

(Lilian TSE)

for Secretary for Food and Health

Encl.

c.c.

Secretary for Food and Health's Office

Food and Health Bureau

Department of Health

(Attn.: Mrs Winnie KANG)

(Attn.: Mr Kelvin CHENG)

(Attn.: Mr Ronald HO)

(Attn.: Miss Nicole LEE)

(Attn.: Dr KH WONG)

**Government's Response on the Measures for
the Prevention and Control of Novel Coronavirus in Hong Kong**

(1) and (2)

1. According to the Compulsory Quarantine of Certain Persons Arriving at Hong Kong Regulation (Cap. 599C), starting from 8 February, except for those exempted, all persons having stayed in the Mainland for any period during the 14 days preceding arrival in Hong Kong will be subject to compulsory quarantine for 14 days, regardless of nationality and travel documents used. Since 25 March, the compulsory 14-day quarantine arrangement has been extended to all 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.

2. As at 4 April, the Department of Health ("DH") issued a total of 83 182 quarantine orders to persons arriving from the Mainland, Macao and Taiwan. During the period from 8 February to 4 April, the daily number of quarantine orders issued ranged from 468 to 2 484, with the median being 1 534.

3. According to the Compulsory Quarantine of Persons Arriving at Hong Kong from Foreign Places Regulation (Cap. 599E), starting from 19 March, except for those exempted, all persons arriving at Hong Kong from places outside China will be subject to compulsory quarantine for 14 days.

4. As at 4 April, DH issued a total of 54 629 quarantine orders to persons arriving from places outside China. During the period from 19 March to 4 April, the daily number of quarantine orders issued ranged from 668 to 6 200, with the median being 3 111.

(3) to (6) and (9)

5. In accordance with the requirements under Section 8 of Cap. 599C and Cap. 599E, a person placed under quarantine in accordance with Section 3 must not leave the place of quarantine without permission given by an authorised officer. The Government has implemented various measures to monitor whether persons placed under quarantine abide by the law, including conducting surprise checks, placing calls to the relevant persons and sharing of real-time location via communication software and electronic wristbands/ monitoring wristbands pairing with mobile app, with a view to ensuring that the persons placed under quarantine are staying at their dwelling places.

6. As at 4 April, officers from disciplinary forces had conducted surprise visits on over 10 000 persons under quarantine. In addition, the call centre of DH had placed over 150 000 telephone calls in total to persons under quarantine for surprise checks.

7. As at 4 April, the Government had distributed over 57 000 electronic wristbands/ monitoring wristbands in total, shared real-time location via communication software with over 70 000 persons under compulsory quarantine, and made about 130 000 video calls to ensure that persons under quarantine are staying at their dwelling places. During the monitoring process, if abnormal situations are observed, the relevant departments will follow up appropriately. As some individuals under quarantine may stay at quarantine centres or in hospitals for treatment, the current monitoring measures of using communication software and electronic wristbands, etc. do not cover every individual under quarantine.

8. The Government has redeployed resources under DH and other relevant bureaux/ departments to carry out relevant duties relating to Cap. 599C and Cap. 599E. The manpower involved is subsumed under the overall manpower of DH and other relevant bureau/ departments and hence cannot be separately quantified.

(7) and (8)

9. As at 4 April, DH issued over 400 warning letters in total to persons who violated the quarantine order. Also, a total of 55 persons left their dwelling places before expiry of the quarantine orders without reasonable explanation or permission given by an authorised officer, and were stopped by staff of the Immigration Department at border control points.

10. For cases with sufficient evidence, the Government will press ahead with prosecution. 3 individuals who violated quarantine orders were respectively sentenced to imprisonment ranging from 10 days to 3 months by magistrates' courts on 30 March. After consulting the Department of Justice ("DoJ") for advice, DH will prosecute 9 individuals suspected to have violated Cap. 599C. In addition, DH has also prosecuted 1 individual suspected to have violated Cap. 599E. The DH and Police will continue investigations and gather more evidence for consideration by DoJ for making prosecutions.

(10)

11. As at 4 April, a total of 270 individuals under compulsory quarantine were confirmed with coronavirus disease-2019 during the quarantine period, including 1 individual under compulsory quarantine according to Cap. 599C and 269 individuals under compulsory quarantine according to Cap. 599E.