

L.N. 59 of 2020

Prevention and Control of Disease (Prohibition on Group Gathering) (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulation 2020

(Made by the Chief Executive in Council under section 8 of the Prevention and Control of Disease Ordinance (Cap. 599))

1. Commencement

This Regulation comes into operation on 8 May 2020.

2. Prevention and Control of Disease (Prohibition on Group Gathering) Regulation amended

The Prevention and Control of Disease (Prohibition on Group Gathering) Regulation (Cap. 599 sub. leg. G) is amended as set out in sections 3, 4 and 5.

3. Section 2 amended (interpretation)

Section 2, definition of *group gathering*—

Repeal

“4”

Substitute

“8”.

4. Section 10 amended (power to disperse prohibited group gathering etc.)

Section 10(2)—

Repeal

“4”

Substitute

“8”.

5. Schedule 1 amended (exempted group gatherings)

(1) Schedule 1—

Repeal item 7

Substitute

“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”.

(2) Schedule 1, item 10—

Repeal

“20”

Substitute

“50”.

(3) Schedule 1—

Repeal item 11

Substitute

“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 recognized 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".
- (4) Schedule 1, after item 12—

Add

- “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. 599 sub. leg. F) applies, except premises that, according to the direction, must be closed”.

Wendy LEUNG
Clerk to the Executive Council

COUNCIL CHAMBER

5 May 2020

Explanatory Note

The Prevention and Control of Disease (Prohibition on Group Gathering) Regulation (Cap. 599 sub. leg. G) (*principal Regulation*) prohibits the taking place of a “group gathering” (i.e. a gathering of more than 4 persons), other than one being exempted or permitted, in a public place during a specified period. It also provides for the power of authorized officers to disperse gatherings in a public place that are less than 1.5 m apart if the total number of participants is more than 4.

2. This Regulation—

- (a) amends the definition of *group gathering* in section 2 of the principal Regulation to relax the number of persons constituting a “group gathering” to more than 8;
- (b) amends section 10(2) of the principal Regulation correspondingly to relax the total number of participants of gatherings that may be dispersed to more than 8; and
- (c) amends Schedule 1 to the principal Regulation mainly to broaden the exemptions.