



香港社會醫學學院
HONG KONG COLLEGE OF COMMUNITY MEDICINE
founder College of the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine
Incorporated with limited liability



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COUNCIL 2021-22

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The Honourable Steven HO Chun-yin, BBS
Chairman
Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene
Legislative Council
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central
Hong Kong

28 April 2021

Re: Improve air change or installing air purifiers in dine-in catering premises

Dear Chairman,

The Hong Kong College of Community Medicine (HKCCM) supports the Government's initiative to improve air change or installing air purifiers in dine-in catering premises.

Ventilation is an important aspect in preventing the transmission of COVID-19 and other infections transmitted via the respiratory route. The World Health Organization (WHO) stipulates that the risk of getting COVID-19 is higher in inadequately ventilated spaces where infected people spend long period of time together in close proximity. A well designed, maintained and operated system can reduce the risk of COVID-19 spread in indoor spaces by diluting the concentration of potentially infectious aerosols through ventilation with outside air and filtration and disinfection of re-circulated air.

Ventilation assumes an even more special consideration in the context of COVID-19 spread in catering premises, where face masks are not worn during eating. A number of large COVID-19 outbreaks have occurred in local catering premises. With the upcoming relaxation of operating hours and social distancing requirements in some dine-in catering premises, it is important to ensure good ventilation as a defense line against possible COVID-19 transmission.

In this respect, the Government's undertaking to improve air change or installing air purifiers in dine-in catering premises is a pertinent step to protect the



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health of staff, customers and the public. The HKCCM urges the Government and the catering industry to work together towards this goal so that the health of the people of Hong Kong can be better protected.

President

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Yours faithfully,

Dr Thomas Tsang
President

Hong Kong College of Community Medicine