



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

Our Ref. : HHB/H/16/123/21 Pt.3
Your Ref. :

Tel. : 3509 7963
Fax : 2840 0467

14 September 2022

Clerk to Panel on Health Services
Legislative Council Secretariat
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central
Hong Kong
(Attn.: Mr Colin CHUI)

Dear Mr CHUI,

**Legislative Council
Panel on Health Services
Measures for the Prevention and Control of COVID-19 in Hong Kong**

At the Panel on Health Services of the Legislative Council on 14 May 2021, some Members requested the Administration to provide information on the specific measures to improve the compulsory quarantine arrangement for close contacts at quarantine centres. Having consulted the Department of Health, this Bureau's reply is as follows -

Quarantine Arrangements

The Centre for Health Protection of the Department of Health conducted epidemiological investigation and risk assessment of the reported cases to identify close contacts. In general, close contacts are defined as individuals who had face-to-face contact with a confirmed case without wearing mask. Taking into consideration the relatively short incubation period for infection with the Omicron mutant strain, the Government has decided to shorten the duration of quarantine to 14 days at quarantine centre for close contacts of locally acquired cases w.e.f. 10 January 2022, followed by seven days of self-monitoring. If the home environment is suitable, close contacts may be subject to home quarantine.

Starting from 26 February 2022 under a risk-based principle, eligible persons who have successively obtained negative test results may leave quarantine facilities or home premises earlier to resume their daily activities. For people who have not been vaccinated or have only received one dose of COVID-19 vaccine, are required to undergo 14-day medical surveillance at the quarantine centre (QC) or at home in accordance with the provisions of the quarantine order. They must also fulfil relevant testing requirements before being considered for completion of quarantine. Close contacts who have received at least two doses of COVID-19 vaccines may conduct rapid antigen test (RAT) on Day 6 and Day 7 of the home quarantine period. If they obtain negative test results during RATs on these two successive days, they may leave QC or home premises earlier on Day 7 to resume normal daily activities; on the other hand, if they obtain at least one positive test result during RATs on these two successive days, they may subsequently conduct RATs on a daily basis. They may leave QC or home premises to resume their normal daily activities after they have obtained negative test results for two successive days.

Communications

Mobile network in 5G technology has fully covered the site of Penny's Bay Quarantine Centre (PBQC). Data SIM will be provided for confinees upon request.

Food Supply

Since May 2021, the Department of Health has engaged Cathay Pacific Catering Services (H.K.) Limited (CPCS) to be the catering service provider for PBQC with strict requirements on food safety, food variety and timeliness of delivery.

For food safety, foods provided by CPCS are required to undergo daily inspection of the Government. Temperature, appearance and taste of each type of meal boxes are inspected and recorded to ensure the food safety standards are met. For food variety, to cater for the dietary needs of different people, CPCS is currently providing three choices of local meals including Chinese, vegetarian and soft-textual meals and other special meals including diabetic meals on an as-needed basis. Bottled water and fruits are also served as part of the diet. The menu has been reviewed by dietitians of the Department of Health.

For timeliness of delivery, a new delivery mode that allows CPCS to deliver meal boxes directly to different quarantine zones of PBQC has been adopted with a view to shortening the time required for the delivery process.

The Department of Health will continue to monitor the catering service in PBQC closely.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'C' followed by a horizontal line that ends in a small flourish.

(Chris FUNG)
for Secretary for Health