

## [AFCD steps up enforcement in country parks \(with photo\)](#)

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) announced today (April 19) that the department has stepped up inspections and enforcement in various country parks, and joined hands with the Police in joint enforcement operations at popular hiking locations during the Easter holiday. Enforcement actions were taken against persons who had violated the Country Parks and Special Areas Regulations (Cap. 208A), the Prevention and Control of Disease (Prohibition on Gathering) Regulation (Cap. 599G) and the Prevention and Control of Disease (Wearing of Mask) Regulation (Cap. 599I).

A spokesman for the AFCD said, "During the operations, officers took enforcement actions against 121 persons suspected to be involved in illegal camping or use of fire in country parks, and issued 16 fixed penalty notices under the Prevention and Control of Disease (Prohibition on Gathering) Regulation (Cap. 599G) and Prevention and Control of Disease (Wearing of Mask) Regulation (Cap. 599I)."

The spokesman reiterated that all campsites and barbecue sites under the management of the AFCD remained closed to reduce social contact currently. During the closure of the facilities, no one should be engaged in camping or barbecuing activities in country parks, or enter a cordoned-off area. Furthermore, members of the public must continue to observe anti-epidemic laws and regulations strictly, and wear masks in country parks. They should refrain from group gatherings over the limit stipulated by the law. Violations are subject to prosecution.

In the light of the upcoming long weekends, the spokesman urged members of the public to stay vigilant and comply with the relevant regulations on prevention and control of disease in a concerted and persistent manner to minimise the risk of spreading the COVID-19 virus. Members of the public should stay away from crowded areas, comply with social distancing measures, maintain personal and environmental hygiene, properly dispose of used masks and waste, and take their litter home to minimise the risk of spreading the virus in the community, and protect the environment.

The AFCD will continue to strengthen its publicity efforts and enforcement actions in country parks to remind the public to exercise self-discipline and co-operate, and fight the virus together.

