<u>Applicants/recipients of CSSA and SSA</u> <u>need not rush back to Hong Kong</u>

The Social Welfare Department (SWD) said today (February 14) that in view of the latest situation of novel coronavirus outbreak, the Director of Social Welfare will give consideration to disregard absences from Hong Kong of applicants/recipients of the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) Scheme and the Social Security Allowance (SSA) Scheme (including Old Age Allowance, Old Age Living Allowance and Disability Allowance) who fail to satisfy the residence requirement or the permissible limit of absence from Hong Kong owing to the epidemic. The SWD appealed to them that there is no need to rush back to Hong Kong.

In the light of the epidemic development, applicants for the Guangdong Scheme and Fujian Scheme can submit their applications by post, instead of doing so in person in Hong Kong.

For enquiries please contact the respective Social Security Field Units (SSFUs) during office hours. Please visit the following webpage for the telephone numbers of SSFUs:

www.swd.gov.hk/storage/asset/section/1/en/Contact_telephone_number_of_Social_ Security_Field_Units_in_SWD-en(10-2-2020).pdf.