

# Prevention and Control of Disease (Requirement and Directions) (Business and Premises) Regulation gazetted

The Government published in the Gazette today (March 27) the Prevention and Control of Disease (Requirement and Directions) (Business and Premises) Regulation (the Regulation) (Cap. 599F) to implement temporary measures to address the current situation of public health emergency. The Regulation will commence at 0.00 am tomorrow (March 28) and will take effect for three months.

Meanwhile, the Secretary for Food and Health (SFH) issues two directions for 14 days through a notice published in the Gazette in accordance with the Regulation. The directions will take effect at 6pm on March 28.

Specific measures of the Regulation cover the following two aspects:

## 1. Catering Business

The Regulation empowers the SFH, for preventing, protecting against, delaying or otherwise controlling the incidence or transmission of the specified disease, to issue requirements and directions in relation to catering business, including –

(a) Requiring catering business premises to cease selling or supplying food or drinks for on-site consumption, and to close whole or part of the premises where food or drink is sold or supplied

This restriction applies to restaurants, canteens, cafes, eateries, pubs, bars, etc. but does not cover a catering business carried on at private dwellings, or operating in hospitals and institutions, etc. The affected premises are still allowed to sell or supply food and/or drink for takeaway and deliveries. The Chief Secretary for Administration (CS) may exempt certain catering business premises from the requirements.

(b) Restricting the operation of catering business

The mode of operation carried on at the premises of the business (including but not be limited to specifying the permitted capacity for conducting business in the premises, the distance requirement for individuals in the premises, etc.) or the daily opening hours of the business are restricted.

The requirements are only effective through a notice made by the SFH published in the Gazette and each of the specified period must not exceed 14 days.

The person responsible for carrying on the catering business (i.e. the owner, proprietor and manager) commits an offence if he or she fails to

comply with the above requirements. Offences would attract a fine at level 5, i.e. \$50,000, and imprisonment for six months, which is the maximum penalty the Regulation may provide pursuant to section 8 of Cap. 599.

## 2. Scheduled Premises

In addition to catering business, the Regulation also empowers the SFH to issue directions to scheduled premises, including closing the scheduled premises for a specified period. Scheduled premises include amusement game centres, bathhouses, fitness centres, places of amusement, places of public entertainment and any premises that are maintained or intended to be maintained for hire for holding social gatherings (commonly known as "party room").

The requirements are only effective through a notice made by SFH published in the Gazette and each of the specified period must not exceed 14 days. The person responsible for the management of the scheduled premises commits an offence if he or she fails to comply with the requirements. Offences would attract a fine at level 5, i.e. \$50,000, and imprisonment for six months, which is the maximum penalty the Regulation may provide pursuant to section 8 of Cap. 599.

### **Latest directions issued by the SFH in accordance with the Regulation**

SFH now issues the following two directions through notice in the Gazette in accordance with the Regulation. The directions will commence at March 28 at 6pm for a period of 14 days (i.e. till 5.59pm on April 11). Details of the two directions are set out below:

#### Direction 1 – Catering Business

The relevant requirements include:

- (a) the number of customers at any premises on which food or drink is sold or supplied for consumption on the premises (catering premises) at any one time must not exceed 50% of the normal seating capacity of the premises;
- (b) tables available for use or being used by customers within any catering premises must be arranged in a way to ensure there is a distance of at least 1.5 metres or some form of partition which could serve as effective buffer between one table and another table at the premises;
- (c) no more than 4 persons may be seated together at one table within any catering premises;
- (d) a person must wear a mask at any time within any catering premises, except when the person is consuming food or drink on the premises;
- (e) body temperature screening on a person must be conducted before the person is allowed to enter the catering premises; and
- (f) hand sanitisers must be provided at any catering premises for any person at the premises.

#### Direction 2 – Scheduled Premises

All premises as listed below must be closed –

- (a) Amusement game centres;
- (b) Bathhouses;
- (c) Fitness centres;
- (d) Places of amusement;
- (e) Places of public entertainment; and
- (f) Premises that are maintained or intended to be maintained for hire for holding social gatherings (commonly known as "party room").

A spokesperson for the Food and Health Bureau reminded the persons responsible for carrying on the catering business and the managers of scheduled premises that contravening the above requirements would be a criminal offence. Offenders are subject to a maximum fine of \$50,000 and imprisonment for six months.

The spokesperson said that the Government has been reviewing the feasibility of relevant measures and will make adjustments on a timely basis in view of the latest development of the disease. Putting in place the Regulation could help further enhance social distancing. When making the Regulation, the Government has taken into account the activities and premises / places with higher infection risks of COVID-19, as well as overseas practices.

The Regulations are made in accordance with the Prevention and Control of Disease Ordinance (Cap. 599). Section 8 of the Ordinance empowers the Chief Executive in Council to make public health emergency regulation for the purposes of preventing, combating or alleviating the effects of a public health emergency and protecting public health.

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) urges members of the public to go out less and avoid social activities such as meal gatherings or other gatherings and maintain an appropriate social distance with other people as far as possible.

The CHP also strongly urges the public to maintain at all times strict personal and environmental hygiene, which is key to personal protection against infection and prevention of the spread of the disease in the community. On a personal level, members of the public should wear surgical masks when having respiratory symptoms, taking public transport or staying in crowded places. They should also perform hand hygiene frequently, especially before touching the mouth, nose or eyes.

The Department of Health will closely monitor the situation. Any updates will be issued through the media, the Government's "COVID-19 Thematic Website" ([www.coronavirus.gov.hk/eng/index.html](http://www.coronavirus.gov.hk/eng/index.html)) and the DH's webpage ([www.gov.hk/ncv](http://www.gov.hk/ncv)). Any enquiries on health information on COVID-19 may be addressed to the DH's hotline at (852) 2125 1122 (operating daily from 8am to midnight).

---

## [Latest arrangements on LCSD public services](#)

The Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) announced today (March 27) that, in view of the latest situation of COVID-19, further measures have to be adopted to achieve social distancing. From 6pm tomorrow (March 28), the LCSD will start to close free outdoor leisure facilities. These outdoor facilities include soccer pitches, basketball courts, volleyball courts, handball courts, netball courts, badminton courts, gateball courts, table tennis tables, playgrounds for children, barbecue sites, skateboard grounds, roller skating rinks, roller hockey courts, skateparks, fitness equipment, model car play areas, model boat pools, cycling facilities (except for cycle paths), amphitheatres, road safety towns and Pui O Campsite. Preparatory works to cordon off those facilities will be conducted earlier. The LCSD appealed for the public to avoid going to the above mentioned facilities that will be temporarily closed starting from March 28.

Other venues and facilities with services already suspended will continue to be closed until further notice.

Meanwhile, all booking applications for the department's recreation and sports facilities, wedding venues, amphitheatres and non-fee charging leisure venues for non-designated use is suspended until further notice.

The LCSD will continue to monitor the situation closely and review the arrangements in a timely manner.

---

## [Update on COVID-19 test centres](#)

The following is issued on behalf of the Hospital Authority:

From March 20 to 9pm today (March 27), 482 and 120 people have been referred to the test centres at the AsiaWorld-Expo and North Lantau Hospital respectively for COVID-19 viral test. So far, 557 people have negative test results for COVID-19 and have returned to their residence to continue the home quarantine.

Preliminary positive test results will be further confirmed by the Department of Health and announced as confirmed cases in due course.

---

## Postal services to certain destinations suspended

In view of the substantial reduction in flight frequencies or even cancellation of flights to certain destinations by airlines, Hongkong Post announced today (March 27) that it was considered necessary to adjust air mail services to these destinations.

At this critical moment, Hongkong Post still hopes to maintain its Speedpost services to major destinations by all means where possible, so as to facilitate the posting of urgent mail by the public. Notwithstanding this, even though Hongkong Post has completed the handling procedures after posting, as a result of substantial reduction in flight frequencies, the time required for handing in posted items to airlines is subject to considerable delays of more than two weeks.

In respect of the service suspension of air mail to these major destinations, the public may consider using surface mail services instead. In this connection, Hongkong Post has requested service providers concerned to advance their shipping schedules or increase their frequencies of service to up to once per week. Members of the public may visit the Hongkong Post website at [www.hongkongpost.hk/en/preparation/posting/latest\\_dates/index.html](http://www.hongkongpost.hk/en/preparation/posting/latest_dates/index.html) and refer to the latest dates of posting for forthcoming surface despatches. Major destinations affected are set out below:

Destinations		Service types available
Asia	Japan, Korea	Speedpost and surface mail
Europe	United Kingdom, Spain	Speedpost and surface mail
	Ireland	Surface mail
North America	United States of America, Canada	Speedpost and surface mail
Oceania	Australia, New Zealand	Surface mail

In addition, mail items to be sent to the following destinations are required to transit via the above destinations, therefore their air mail services will also be subject to impacts of varied degrees:

Destinations		Service types suspended
Asia	Timor-Leste	Air mail (excluding Speedpost)
	Korea, North	Air parcel
Africa	Gambia, Malawi	Air parcel
	Canary Islands, Spanish Territories of North Africa	Air mail (excluding Speedpost)
Central and South America	Falkland Islands, The Territory of South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands	Air mail (excluding Speedpost)
Europe	Guernsey, Isle of Man	Air letter
	Balearic Islands, Channel Islands	Air mail (excluding Speedpost)
North America	Cayman Islands, Haiti, St. Christopher (St. Kitts) and Nevis	Air letter
	Antigua and Barbuda, Cuba, Dominica, Grenada, St. Lucia, St. Vincent And The Grenadines, Turks & Caicos Islands	Air parcel
	Virgin Islands of the United States of America, Anguilla, Barbados, Montserrat, Puerto Rico, St. Pierre and Miquelon, Tortola	Airmail (except Speedpost)

Oceania	Kiribati, Samoa (the United States of America Territory), Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Western Samoa	Air letter
	Wake Island	Air parcel
	Christmas Island (Indian Ocean), Cocos (Keeling) Islands, Cook Islands, New Caledonia, New Zealand Islands Territories, Norfolk Islands, Pitcairn Islands, Vanuatu (The Republic of)	Airmail (except Speedpost)

As advised respectively by the postal administration of France about its suspension of surface mail and the postal administration of India about its suspension of surface and air mail, postal services to and transit via these two destinations are also subject to impacts of varied degrees. The list of destinations affected is set out as follows:

Destinations		Service types suspended
Asia	India	Airmail (including Speedpost) and surface mail
	Nepal	All surface mail
	Bhutan	Surface parcel
	Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Turkmenistan	Surface letter
Africa	Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Central African Republic, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Gabon, Gambia, Guinea Bissau, Monaco, Namibia, Niger, Rwanda (Rep.), Togo	Surface letter
	Comoros	All surface mail

Central and South America	Antigua And Barbuda, Haiti, Mauritania	Surface letter
	French West Indies (Guadeloupe), French West Indies (Martinique)	All surface mail
Europe	Andorra, Corsica, France	All surface mail
	Armenia	Surface letter
Oceania	Cape Verde, St. Pierre And Miquelon, Wallis And Futuna Islands	Surface letter

As the substantial reduction in flight frequencies continues, it is anticipated that air traffic capacity would not be able to resume stable in the near future. Members of the public may visit the Hongkong Post website and refer to the links [www.hongkongpost.hk/en/about\\_us/whats\\_new/notices/index\\_id\\_898.html](http://www.hongkongpost.hk/en/about_us/whats_new/notices/index_id_898.html) and [www.hongkongpost.hk/en/about\\_us/whats\\_new/notices/index\\_id\\_899.html](http://www.hongkongpost.hk/en/about_us/whats_new/notices/index_id_899.html) for all the destinations and their respective services under influence.

---

## [Missing man in Cheung Sha Wan located](#)

A man who went missing in Cheung Sha Wan has been located.

Leung Siu-lam, aged 64, went missing after he left his residence on Broadway on March 14 morning. His family made a report to Police on March 18.

The man was located at a hotel on Arthur Street in Yau Ma Tei this morning (March 27). He sustained no injuries and no suspicious circumstances were detected.