

## September 2020 adjustment in ceiling prices for dedicated LPG filling stations

The Electrical and Mechanical Services Department today (August 27) announced an adjustment to the auto-LPG (liquefied petroleum gas) ceiling prices for dedicated LPG filling stations from September 1 to September 30, 2020, in accordance with the terms and conditions of the contracts of the dedicated LPG filling stations.

A department spokesman said that the adjustment on September 1, 2020, reflects the movement of the LPG international price in August 2020. The adjusted auto-LPG ceiling prices for dedicated LPG filling stations will range from \$2.61 to \$3.18 per litre, representing an increase of \$0.02 per litre.

The spokesman said that the auto-LPG ceiling prices were adjusted according to a specified pricing formula. The formula comprises two elements – the LPG international price and the LPG operating price. The LPG international price is the LPG international price of the preceding month. The LPG operating price is adjusted on the first day of February every year according to the movement in the Composite Consumer Price Index in the previous year.

The auto-LPG ceiling prices for respective dedicated LPG filling stations in September 2020 are as follows:

Location of Dedicated LPG Filling Station	Auto-LPG Ceiling Price in September 2020 (HK\$/litre)	Auto-LPG Ceiling Price in August 2020 (HK\$/litre)
Fung Yip Street, Chai Wan	3.18	3.16
Ngo Cheung Road, West Kowloon	3.18	3.16
Sham Mong Road, Mei Foo	2.83	2.81
Yip Wong Road, Tuen Mun	2.83	2.81
Marsh Road, Wan Chai	2.83	2.81
Fung Mat Road, Sheung Wan	2.76	2.74
Wai Lok Street, Kwun Tong	2.76	2.74
Yuen Chau Tsai, Tai Po	2.76	2.74
Cheung Yip Street, Kowloon Bay	2.81	2.79
Kwai On Road, Kwai Chung	2.81	2.79

Hang Yiu Street, Ma On Shan	2.61	2.59
Tak Yip Street, Yuen Long	2.61	2.59

The spokesman said that the details of the LPG international price and the auto-LPG ceiling price of each dedicated LPG filling station have been uploaded to the department website [www.emsd.gov.hk](http://www.emsd.gov.hk). They are also posted at dedicated LPG filling stations to enable the trades to monitor the price adjustment.

Details of the pricing adjustment mechanism for dedicated LPG filling stations can also be viewed under the "What's New" section of the department website at [www.emsd.gov.hk/en/what\\_s\\_new/current/index.html](http://www.emsd.gov.hk/en/what_s_new/current/index.html).

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## Government begins to relax social distancing measures in a gradual and orderly manner

The Government will gazette today (August 27) directions and specifications under the Prevention and Control of Disease (Requirements and Directions) (Business and Premises) Regulation (Cap. 599F), the Prevention and Control of Disease (Prohibition on Group Gathering) Regulation (Cap. 599G) and the Prevention and Control of Disease (Wearing of Mask) Regulation (Cap. 599I) to relax social distancing measures in a gradual and orderly manner. The above directions and specifications will take effect at 0.00am on August 28 for a period of seven days till September 3.

A spokesman for the Food and Health Bureau said, "Under the new normal, the general public must accept that there would be sporadic cases and clusters in the community from time to time. We cannot and should not wait until there is no confirmed case in the community for an extended period of time before considering relaxation of social distancing measures. Subject to the epidemic situation being under control, the Government will, having regard to the latest development of the epidemic situation and risk assessment, relax social distancing measures under a refined and sophisticated approach in a gradual and orderly manner in phases so as to allow social and economic activities to resume. The first phase of relaxation would include re-opening of indoor premises for passive activities where the risk is relatively easy to manage as well as outdoor sports premises for activities involving little physical contact."

The requirements and restrictions under the latest directions and specifications (details at Annex 1) are as follows:

Catering business

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(1) From 9pm to 4.59am of the subsequent day, save for specific premises (details at Annex 2), a person responsible for carrying on a catering business must cease selling or supplying food or drink for consumption on the premises of the business; and close any premises, or part of the premises, on which food or drink is sold or supplied by the business for consumption on the premises. The premises concerned may still sell or supply food and/or drink for takeaway services and deliveries. A person responsible for carrying on a catering business is also required to put up a notice at the entrance to the catering premises to remind customers that food or drink should not be consumed in areas adjacent to the catering premises.

(2) The number of customers at any catering premises at any one time must not exceed 50 per cent of the normal seating capacity of the premises. No more than two persons may be seated together at one table within any catering premises.

(3) 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 partition(s) which could serve as an effective buffer between one table and another table at the premises.

(4) Any premises (commonly known as bar or pub) that is exclusively or mainly used for the sale or supply of intoxicating liquors as defined in section 53(1) of the Dutiable Commodities Ordinance (Cap. 109) for consumption in that premises must be closed. Any part of a catering premises that is exclusively or mainly used for the sale or supply of such intoxicating liquors for consumption in that part must be closed.

(5) Live performance and dancing must not be allowed in any catering premises. All karaoke and mahjong-tin kau activities carried on at any catering premises must also be suspended. Other requirements and restrictions in relation to catering business premises would remain in effect, including wearing a mask at all times within any catering premises except when the person is consuming food or drink; conducting body temperature screening for all persons entering the premises; and providing hand sanitisers, etc.

#### Scheduled premises

(6) The following scheduled premises under Cap. 599F may be open subject to relevant requirements and restrictions:

(a) Cinema: The measures include that tickets to be sold and seats to be occupied of each house for film screening must not exceed 50 per cent of the seating capacity of the house; seating must be arranged in a way that no more than two consecutive seats in the same row may be occupied; no eating or drinking inside a house is allowed; and cleaning and disinfection of each house must be conducted after each screening, etc;

(b) Beauty parlour: The measures include that all staff must wear protective

gears such as masks and face shield/goggles all the time when providing beauty services to customers and the protective gears have to be changed or sanitised after service is provided to a customer; the beauty parlour may only serve customers upon appointment; and no more than two persons may be allowed in each partitioned service area, etc; and

(c) Some of the outdoor sports premises for activities involving little physical contact, namely athletic tracks in sports grounds, tennis courts and tennis practice courts, golf courses, golf driving ranges and practice greens, bowling greens, shooting ranges, archery ranges, cycling parks, horse riding schools and radio-controlled model aircraft flying fields: The measures include that any person in the sports premises is required to wear a mask before and after exercise; and for a group of more than two persons, it must be arranged in a way to ensure that persons are in sub-groups of no more than two persons and there is at least 1.5 metres between each sub-group, etc.

(7) Club-house: Save for catering premises, cinema, beauty parlour and the abovementioned outdoor sports premises in the club-house therein, all other premises/facilities must be closed. Catering premises in club-houses must operate in accordance with restrictions and directions stipulated for catering premises, including the requirement to cease dine-in services during specific periods. Cinema, beauty parlour and the abovementioned outdoor sports premises may also be open subject to compliance with the respective requirements and restrictions applicable to the premises.

(8) All scheduled premises under Cap. 599F set out below are required to suspend operation:

- (a) Amusement game centre;
- (b) Bathhouse;
- (c) Fitness centre;
- (d) Place of amusement;
- (e) Place of public entertainment (except cinema);
- (f) Premises (commonly known as party rooms) that are maintained or intended to be maintained for hire for holding social gatherings;
- (g) Establishment (commonly known as clubs or nightclubs) that are open late into the night, usually for drinking, and dancing or other entertainment;
- (h) Karaoke establishment;
- (i) Mahjong-tin kau premises;
- (j) Massage establishment; and
- (k) Swimming pools.

Persons responsible for carrying on catering businesses and managers of scheduled premises that contravene the statutory requirements under Cap. 599F would have committed a criminal offence. Offenders are subject to a maximum fine of \$50,000 and imprisonment for six months.

#### Group Gathering

(9) Unless exempted, the prohibition on group gatherings of more than two

persons in public places will continue during the aforementioned seven-day period.

Any person who participates in a prohibited group gathering; organises a prohibited group gathering; owns, controls or operates the place of such gathering and knowingly allows the taking place of such gathering, commits an offence under Cap. 599G. Offenders are liable to a maximum fine of \$25,000 and imprisonment for six months. Persons who participate in a prohibited group gathering may discharge liability for the offence by paying a fixed penalty of \$2,000.

#### Mask-wearing Requirement

(10) The Secretary for Food and Health will specify, by way of a notice published in the Gazette for the purpose of the mandatory mask-wearing requirement under Cap. 599I, all public places, save for outdoor public places in country parks and special areas as defined in section 2 of the Country Parks Ordinance (Cap. 208). During the aforementioned seven-day period, a person must wear a mask at all times when the person is boarding or onboard a public transport carrier, is entering or present in an MTR paid area, or is entering or present in a specified public place.

Under Cap. 599I, if a person does not wear a mask in accordance with the requirement, an authorised person may deny that person from boarding a public transport carrier or entering the area concerned, as well as require that person to wear a mask and disembark from the carrier or leave the said area. A person in contravention of the relevant provision commits an offence and the maximum penalty is a fine at level 2 (\$5,000). In addition, authorised public officers may issue fixed penalty notices to persons who do not wear a mask in accordance with the requirement and such persons may discharge liability for the offence by paying a fixed penalty of \$2,000.

According to the World Health Organization and health experts, COVID-19 cannot be eradicated without effective treatment and vaccination. The virus will co-exist with us for quite a long period of time and even become seasonally endemic. The Government is thus required to incorporate work in relation to disease prevention and control as well as infection management, in addition to the resumption of various social and economic activities and normal daily activities of members of the public, into the new normal of the daily operation of society and Government measures. To this end, the Government has all along adopted the "suppress and lift" strategy in order to quickly adjust epidemic control measures having regard to the development of the epidemic situation. The Government will continue to maintain close liaison with various trades and industries to listen to their suggestions on prevention and control measures to be adopted. The Government has also been closely monitoring the development of the epidemic situation and will allow gradual resumption of normal daily lives of members of the public under the new normal by resuming social and economic activities of which the infection risks can be considerably reduced through enhanced prevention and control measures, while striking a balance among disease prevention and control, economic needs and level of acceptance of the society.

"We hope to highlight that it has been over a month since the third wave of the epidemic started but it is not yet over. At this stage, we need the co-operation of members of the public in order to bring the epidemic under control so that social and economic activities can resume gradually. To this end, we appeal to members of the public to wear surgical masks in public places, especially when they are onboard a public transport carrier or staying in crowded places. They should also stay vigilant and maintain personal and environmental hygiene in order to prevent rebound of the epidemic," the spokesman said.

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## Government responds to media enquiries on BGI's testing services

In response to media enquiries on the test results of the Sunrise Diagnostic Centre Limited, a joint venture company of BGI in Hong Kong that provides COVID-19 testing services for the Government, the Government today (August 26) responded as follow:

The Public Health Laboratory Services Branch (PHLSB) under The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health (DH) has been designated by the World Health Organization (WHO) this year as a WHO COVID-19 Reference Laboratory and WHO COVID-19 external quality assessment programme provider. The PHLSB also provides a quality assessment programme for local laboratories.

In accordance with the existing mechanism of the DH, specimens tested with a positive COVID-19 result in all private laboratories in Hong Kong are considered preliminary positive. The specimens must be referred to the PHLSB in accordance with established procedures for confirmatory tests. After a positive result is confirmed by the PHLSB, the CHP will classify it as a confirmed case. It is the DH's established practice for all preliminary positive cases to be confirmed by the PHLSB.

Generally speaking, it is not uncommon for the PHLSB and the private laboratories to have discordant results using different platforms during the confirmatory process, and it has happened occasionally in the past. The DH may collect samples for the relevant cases again for further testing if necessary.

The Government reiterated that all private laboratories providing testing services for the Government must participate in and pass the CHP's External Quality Assessment Programme (EQAP) for COVID-19 testing so as to ensure the technical level of testing services provided.

According to the DH's record, the temporary air-inflated laboratory at Sun Yat Sen Memorial Park Sports Centre operated with the support of the

Sunrise Diagnostic Centre Limited passed the PHLSB's EQAP on August 18 and the accuracy of its sample pooling method was confirmed. In addition, BGI and the Sunrise Diagnostic Centre Limited participated in and passed the EQAP for their testing facilities in June and July respectively. According to the information provided by the Sunrise Diagnostic Centre Limited, BGI's testing technology has also passed the external quality evaluation in Mainland China, Japan, the Netherlands and Malaysia etc. At this stage, there is no evidence that the quality of the testing services it provides to the Government falls short of the standard.

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## Temporary air-inflated laboratory geared up (with photos/video)

The temporary air-inflated laboratory at Sun Yat Sen Memorial Park Sports Centre is now ready, following some two weeks of preparation, to support large-scale testing under the Government's Universal Community Testing Programme (UCT Programme) to be launched on September 1. For the Mainland nucleic acid test support team (Support Team) which was formed and specifically deployed to Hong Kong by the Central Government to assist the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) in ramping up testing capacity, its members including laboratory testing personnel recognised in the Mainland have familiarised themselves with the local environment and stand ready for supporting the initiative.

To assist Hong Kong to launch a large-scale universal community testing within a short period of time, the Support Team had earlier assisted in the preparatory work for the temporary laboratory with a view to substantially ramping up the virus testing capacity of Hong Kong. The Permanent Secretary for Food and Health (Health), Mr Thomas Chan, who led the work group on testing of the HKSAR (work group), along with leader of the Support Team, Mr Yu Dewen, as well as members of the work group and the Support Team today (August 26) visited the Sun Yat Sen Memorial Park Sports Centre to inspect the preparation of the temporary air-inflated laboratory and testing procedures. Sunrise Diagnostic Centre Limited, a joint venture with BGI set up in Hong Kong, is responsible for supporting the Support Team in the set up and operation of the temporary air-inflated laboratory. During the visit, representatives of Sunrise Diagnostic Centre had explained in detail various aspects of the preparatory work and operational flow of the temporary air-inflated laboratory.

Mr Chan said that the HKSAR Government expressed heartfelt gratitude to the Central Government for its support to enhance the testing capacity in Hong Kong, which had laid a solid foundation for the UCT Programme. After the inspection, the work group and the Support Team considered that the preparation of the temporary air-inflated laboratory is progressing well and



expressed confidence in the smooth operation of the laboratory when the UCT Programme is launched. The Government will endeavour to protect public health and ensure the UCT Programme be implemented in a safe and orderly manner to provide voluntary virus tests for all citizens. He appeals to members of the public to actively participate in the UCT Programme to fight the epidemic together, and to contribute to the eradication and control of epidemic in Hong Kong, paving way for gradual relaxation of social distancing measures and return to normal life.

The Public Health Laboratory Services Branch (PHLSB) of the Department of Health (DH) has been designated by the World Health Organization (WHO) this year as the WHO COVID-19 Reference Lab and WHO COVID-19 external quality assessment programme provider. The PHLSB also provides a quality assessment programme for local laboratories. The temporary air-inflated laboratory had passed the DH's assessment under the external quality assessment programme and complied with the requirements to provide COVID-19 tests for the Government. The laboratory also meets the requirements of a Biosafety Level 2 laboratory, and has implemented relevant infection control measures to ensure hygiene and appropriate waste management without emission of harmful gas.



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**CHP investigates 24 additional**



## confirmed cases of COVID-19

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health has announced that as of 0.00am, August 26, the CHP was investigating 24 additional confirmed cases of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), taking the number of cases to 4 735 in Hong Kong so far (comprising 4 734 confirmed cases and one probable case).

Among the newly reported cases announced, no patient had a travel history during the incubation period.

The CHP's epidemiological investigations and relevant contact tracing on the confirmed cases are ongoing. For case details and contact tracing information, please see the Annex or the list of buildings with confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the past 14 days and the latest local situation of COVID-19 available on the website "COVID-19 Thematic Website" ([www.coronavirus.gov.hk](http://www.coronavirus.gov.hk)).

In view of the severe epidemic situation, the CHP called on members of the public to avoid going out, having social contact and dining out. They should put on a surgical mask and maintain stringent hand hygiene when they need to go out. As a number of recent cases involve elderly people, the CHP strongly urged the elderly to stay home as far as possible and avoid going out. They should consider asking their family and friends to help with everyday tasks such as shopping for basic necessities.

A spokesman for the CHP said, "Given that the situation of COVID-19 infection remains severe and that there is a continuous increase in the number of cases reported around the world, members of the public are strongly urged to avoid all non-essential travel outside Hong Kong.

"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 a surgical mask 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.

"As for household environmental hygiene, members of the public are advised to maintain drainage pipes properly, regularly pour water into drain outlets (U-traps) and cover all floor drain outlets when they are not in use. After using the toilet, they should put the toilet lid down before flushing to avoid spreading germs."

Moreover, the Government has launched the website "COVID-19 Thematic Website" ([www.coronavirus.gov.hk](http://www.coronavirus.gov.hk)) for announcing the latest updates on various news on COVID-19 infection and health advice to help the public understand the latest updates. Members of the public may also gain access to information via the COVID-19 WhatsApp Helpline launched by the Office of the

Government Chief Information Officer. Simply by saving 9617 1823 in their phone contacts or clicking the link [wa.me/85296171823?text=hi](https://wa.me/85296171823?text=hi), they will be able to obtain information on COVID-19 as well as the "StayHomeSafe" mobile app and wristband via WhatsApp.

To prevent pneumonia and respiratory tract infections, members of the public should always maintain good personal and environmental hygiene. They are advised to:

- Wear a surgical mask when taking public transport or staying in crowded places. It is important to wear a mask properly, including performing hand hygiene before wearing and after removing a mask;
- Perform hand hygiene frequently, especially before touching the mouth, nose or eyes, after touching public installations such as handrails or doorknobs, or when hands are contaminated by respiratory secretions after coughing or sneezing;
- Maintain drainage pipes properly and regularly (about once a week) pour about half a litre of water into each drain outlet (U-trap) to ensure environmental hygiene;
- Cover all floor drain outlets when they are not in use;
- After using the toilet, put the toilet lid down before flushing to avoid spreading germs;
- Wash hands with liquid soap and water, and rub for at least 20 seconds. Then rinse with water and dry with a disposable paper towel. If hand washing facilities are not available, or when hands are not visibly soiled, performing hand hygiene with 70 to 80 per cent alcohol-based handrub is an effective alternative;
- Cover your mouth and nose with tissue paper when sneezing or coughing. Dispose of soiled tissues into a lidded rubbish bin, then wash hands thoroughly; and
- When having respiratory symptoms, wear a surgical mask, refrain from work or attending class at school, avoid going to crowded places and seek medical advice promptly.