

# Government announces mechanism for Hong Kong enterprises with manufacturing operations in the Mainland to apply for exemption from compulsory quarantine arrangement

The Government announced today (May 4) the mechanism for Hong Kong enterprises with manufacturing operations in the Mainland to apply for exemption from the compulsory quarantine arrangement. The Trade and Industry Department (TID) has started processing applications from today.

The Compulsory Quarantine of Certain Persons Arriving at Hong Kong (Amendment) (No.2) Regulation 2020 commenced on April 29, 2020, amending the Compulsory Quarantine of Certain Persons Arriving at Hong Kong Regulation (Cap. 599C) (amended Regulation). The expiry date of the amended Regulation has been extended to June 7, 2020. In accordance with the newly added section 4(1)(b) in the amended Regulation, the Chief Secretary for Administration may designate any person or category of persons for exemption from the compulsory quarantine arrangement if he is satisfied that the person's or persons' travelling is necessary for purposes relating to manufacturing operations in the interest of Hong Kong's economic development.

In accordance with the above-mentioned provision, the Chief Secretary for Administration has exempted the following categories of persons from the compulsory quarantine arrangement with effect from May 4, 2020:

- (a) either the owner of a Hong Kong enterprise with a valid business registration certificate issued under the Business Registration Ordinance (Cap. 310) and with manufacturing operations in the Mainland, and up to one person employed and so authorised by the enterprise; or
- (b) up to two persons employed and so authorised by such an enterprise as described in (a).

An exempted person must only travel to and stay in the city where the Mainland factory of his/her Hong Kong enterprise's manufacturing operations is located, for supporting the operation and business of that factory. The exempted person must take every precautionary measure to ensure personal hygiene and avoid unnecessary social contact whilst in the Mainland. After returning to Hong Kong, the exempted person will be subject to medical surveillance arranged by the Department of Health during his/her stay in Hong Kong, and will be required to wear masks and check body temperature daily, as well as to report to the Department of Health on any discomfort.

The details of the exemption arrangement are in Annex 1. The application

form is in Annex 2. The application form is available for download from the website of the TID ([www.tid.gov.hk/english/aboutus/form/publicform/download.html](http://www.tid.gov.hk/english/aboutus/form/publicform/download.html)).

Eligible Hong Kong enterprises should submit the completed application form with all required supporting documents to the TID by email ([exemption@tid.gov.hk](mailto:exemption@tid.gov.hk)) or by fax (3525 0988).

In processing the applications, the TID may consult the Federation of Hong Kong Industries and/or the Chinese Manufacturers' Association of Hong Kong as well as the relevant bureaux/departments when necessary. The TID will issue authorisation letters to the exempted persons, setting out the conditions for exemption.

In addition, the TID will continue to process the exemption applications of another category of persons who are exempted in accordance with section 4(1)(a)(i) of the Regulation, i.e. "owners of or personnel employed and authorised by companies with factories in the Mainland which are engaged in manufacturing goods for supply to Hong Kong for its normal operation or for the daily needs of the people of Hong Kong". For this exempted category under section 4(1)(a)(i) of the Regulation, relevant persons whose applications have been submitted to the TID before May 4 and are still under processing do not need to submit fresh applications; the TID will also consider their applications in accordance with the exemption criteria of section 4(1)(b), i.e. the owners of or personnel employed and authorised by Hong Kong enterprises with "manufacturing operations in the Mainland in the interest of Hong Kong's economic development", which is in effect from May 4. Separately, those who have been issued with the TID's authorisation letters before May 4 in accordance with section 4(1)(a)(i) of the Regulation do not need to submit applications afresh; their exemption will continue to be valid.

For enquiries, please call the TID's hotline at 2398 5553.

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## **Keep good hand hygiene habits to prevent infection of communicable diseases**

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health today (May 4), in support of the Hand Hygiene Day tomorrow (May 5), appealed to the public to keep good hand hygiene habits. Performing hand hygiene frequently – especially before touching the mouth, nose or eyes – is key to preventing COVID-19 and other communicable diseases.

The slogan of this year's Hand Hygiene Day is "Let's Remind Each Other

Keep Hands Clean Together", which aims to enhance hand hygiene compliance among healthcare workers. Patients and healthcare workers can be good working partners in improving hand hygiene practices for their mutual benefit. Members of the public and healthcare workers can remind each other to clean their hands as and when necessary.

A new video ([www.youtube.com/watch?v=WC5tRCRlWr4](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WC5tRCRlWr4)) encourages the public to observe good personal hand hygiene and reminds others to do the same, whether they are at home, at school, in a clinic or a hospital ward. Good hand hygiene is the primary measure proven to be effective in preventing healthcare associated infections and the spread of antimicrobial resistance.

The public may visit the CHP's Hand Hygiene Day 2020 webpage ([www.chp.gov.hk/en/features/102970.html](http://www.chp.gov.hk/en/features/102970.html)) for more information on hand hygiene.

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## **Applications invited for Exchanges with Taiwan Funding Scheme**

The following is issued on behalf of the Secretariat to the Hong Kong-Taiwan Economic and Cultural Cooperation and Promotion Council:

The Hong Kong-Taiwan Economic and Cultural Cooperation and Promotion Council (ECCPC) is inviting applications for the Exchanges with Taiwan Funding Scheme (the Scheme).

The Scheme aims to enhance exchanges and understanding between Hong Kong and Taiwan at the community level through providing funding support to local non-governmental organisations to organise relevant activities.

The application form for the Scheme can be downloaded from the ECCPC website at [www.eccpc.org.hk/eng/scheme.htm](http://www.eccpc.org.hk/eng/scheme.htm). The deadline for applications is June 1, 2020.

For enquiries, please contact the ECCPC Secretariat at 2810 2011.

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## **Police express regret over unfounded**

## media report

In response to a media report today (May 4) which alleged that the Commissioner of Police, Mr Tang Ping-keung, turned a blind eye to the unauthorised building works on his previous rented flat, Police clarified that the content of the report deviates from facts.

The Commissioner of Police rented a unit on Broadcast Drive in Kowloon Tong in 2016 and subsequently received notification from the Buildings Department in 2017 that there were unauthorised building works on the rooftop of the unit which must be removed. The Commissioner of Police immediately informed the owner of the removal order and requested him to handle. Nevertheless, the owner has not complied with the order. The Commissioner of Police hence moved out from the unit in June 2019.

Police express regret over such unfounded report.

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## Rescheduling of LegCo Public Accounts Committee closed meeting

The following is issued on behalf of the Legislative Council Secretariat:

The closed meeting of the Legislative Council Public Accounts Committee originally scheduled for tomorrow (May 4) at 9am will be rescheduled to the following week.