

Man sentenced for breaching compulsory quarantine order

A 57-year-old man was sentenced to immediate imprisonment for 10 days by the Kowloon City Magistrates' Courts today (May 29) for violating the Compulsory Quarantine of Certain Persons Arriving at Hong Kong Regulation (Cap. 599C) (the Regulation).

The man was issued a compulsory quarantine order stating that he must conduct quarantine at a designated guesthouse in Tsim Sha Tsui for 14 days. When the Police were deployed at scene on March 28 upon receipt of reports, he was found to have left the place of quarantine without reasonable excuse nor permission given by an authorised officer before the expiry of the quarantine order. He was charged with contravening sections 8(1) and 8(5) of the Regulation and was sentenced by the Kowloon City Magistrates' Courts today to immediate imprisonment for 10 days.

A spokesman for the Department of Health said that the sentence sends a clear message to the community that breaching quarantine orders is a criminal offence and that the Government will not tolerate such actions. The spokesman reiterated that compliance with quarantine orders is of paramount importance in Hong Kong's fight against COVID-19.

Pursuant to the Regulation, save for exempted persons, all persons who have stayed in the Mainland, Macao or Taiwan in the 14 days preceding arrival at Hong Kong, regardless of their nationality or travel documents, will be subject to compulsory quarantine for 14 days. Moreover, pursuant to the Compulsory Quarantine of Persons Arriving at Hong Kong from Foreign Places Regulation (Cap. 599E), starting from March 19, all persons arriving from countries or territories outside China are subject to compulsory quarantine for 14 days. Breaching quarantine orders is a criminal offence and offenders are subject to a maximum fine of \$25,000 and imprisonment for six months. The Department of Health solemnly reminds persons under quarantine to comply with the statutory requirements and conduct quarantine for 14 days.