<u>Special work arrangement for</u> <u>government departments to be extended</u>

A Government spokesman said today (February 20) that in view of the latest situation, the special work arrangement for government departments will be extended until March 1 in order to reduce social contacts and the risk of the spread of the novel coronavirus in the community. The Government will review the situation before then.

Government departments will continue to provide emergency and essential public services, as well as basic and limited-scale public services. They will also make necessary adjustments to provide services to members of the public as appropriate and make preparations for the gradual resumption of normal services.

The Government's top priority now is to prevent and control the spread of the disease. The Government will closely monitor the situation in deciding the way forward.

Individual government departments will announce separately their latest service details as soon as possible.