

LegCo Secretariat implements preventive measures for COVID-19

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

In view of the latest situation of COVID-19 epidemic in Hong Kong, the Legislative Council (LegCo) Secretariat announced today (March 22) that all public services in the LegCo Complex, including the Public Complaints Office, Library and Archives, will be suspended from tomorrow (March 23). Secretariat staff will work from home, except those who provide support services to the meetings of LegCo and its Committees, maintain basic operation of the Secretariat and who are on essential duties.

Meanwhile, all persons who are subject to compulsory quarantine will be denied entry into the Complex. All Secretariat staff, others who work at the Complex and visitors who have had close contact with initially confirmed cases and confirmed cases of COVID-19 or persons who are subject to compulsory quarantine, will also be denied entry into the Complex.

The Footbridge Entrance of the Complex will be closed temporarily. Members' Entrance 2 will be open from 7am to 30 minutes after the end of the last meeting on the days when meetings are held. It will be closed on the days when no meeting is held.

The Secretariat will continue to implement a number of infection control measures and special arrangements in order to minimise the risk of the spread of the disease in the community. For details, please refer to the announcement on the LegCo website (www.legco.gov.hk/general/english/sec/corg_ser/whats_on_20200323-e.pdf).

The Secretariat will review the aforementioned measures in accordance with the development of the epidemic and make further announcements in due course.

The meeting arrangement of LegCo and its Committees is subject to change. Members of the public may refer to the "LegCo Calendar" on the LegCo website (www.legco.gov.hk) or the "Calendar" on the LegCo Mobile App for the latest details of meetings.

Latest arrangements on Hongkong Post

services

In response to the Government's announcement yesterday (March 21) about the re-adjustment of public services and special work arrangements for civil servants, Hongkong Post today (March 22) announced the latest arrangements on postal services from March 23 onwards.

In view of the constantly increasing public demand for the posting of mail items at counters since early March, all post offices will maintain their normal opening hours but advance their closing hours to 4pm from Monday to Friday, while their business hours on Saturdays will remain normal (except for the General Post Office, Tsim Sha Tsui Post Office and the Airport Post Office, which will advance their closing hours to 4pm on Saturdays). All forms of counter services will be available during these hours. Mobile post office services will be suspended.

In addition, Hongkong Post will maintain its mail delivery services (including that for Speedpost items) from Monday to Saturday but mail collection from posting boxes will only be provided on alternate days.

Due to the adjustment to business hours of post offices, members of the public requiring counter services may expect longer waiting times. Moreover, as airlines have made substantial adjustments to their flight frequencies, the public are advised to visit the Hongkong Post website at www.hongkongpost.hk/en/about_us/whats_new/service_delay_suspension/index.html for updates on the provision of airmail services.

Hongkong Post will continue to closely monitor the situation and make necessary arrangements in a timely manner.

Latest arrangements for Rating and Valuation Department Counter Services

In light of the special work arrangements announced by the Government yesterday (March 21) and to reduce the risk of the spread of the COVID-19 virus in the community, the Rating and Valuation Department announced today (March 22) that starting from tomorrow (March 23), the opening hours of its enquiry counters will be adjusted as follows to provide basic and limited counter services to members of the public until further notice.

Opening hours of enquiry counters:
Monday, Wednesday and Friday (8.15am to 1pm)

To achieve social distancing, members of the public are encouraged to use the department's 24-hour electronic services (www.rvd.gov.hk) to submit forms or obtain information as far as possible. Public enquiries may also be made to the department by email (enquiries@rvd.gov.hk), by fax (2152 0138) or by phone at 2152 0111/2152 2152, and the waiting/response time may be longer.

Latest arrangements for REO services

To align with the latest limited service arrangements announced by the Government to reduce social contact and the risk of the spread of disease in the community, the Registration and Electoral Office (REO) announced today (March 22) that its various offices and the Electoral Information Centre will be temporarily closed from tomorrow (March 23) until further notice.

On the other hand, the REO hotline at 2891 1001 will maintain limited services from tomorrow. Hotline services will be provided from 8.45am to 6pm, Monday to Friday.

Latest arrangements for HAD services

In view of the latest situation of COVID-19 and to align with the latest public service arrangements of the Government, the Home Affairs Department (HAD) announced today (March 22) its latest service arrangements from tomorrow (March 23). The details are listed below.

All community halls and community centres will be temporarily closed.

The Home Affairs Enquiry Centres (HAECs), except for the Sham Shui Po HAEC which closed earlier for maintenance works, will be open between 10am and 3pm from Monday to Friday (between 10am and 3pm on Monday, Wednesday and Friday only for the HAEC in Mui Wo). The service to administer declarations or oaths/affirmations for private use will be available.

The Estate Beneficiaries Support Unit (EBSU)'s hotline (2835 1535) and service counter will operate from 10am to 3pm from Monday to Friday.

The waiting times for the services provided by the HAECs and the EBSU may be longer as the provision of services will be scaled down.

The services provided by the Office of the Licensing Authority remain normal.

For other enquiries, please call the HAD's enquiry hotline at 2835 2500 between 10am and 5pm from Monday to Friday.