

# Government announces latest situation of fresh food supply from Mainland

A Government spokesman announced today (April 27) that the supply of fresh food from the Mainland yesterday (April 26) was sufficient and stable.

According to the latest information, the quantity of vegetables supplied from the Mainland to Hong Kong yesterday (as of midnight) by land and water transportation was over 2 500 tonnes, comparable to the average daily supply from the Mainland on a normal day. The volume of vegetables supplied from the Mainland to Hong Kong sold through the wholesale markets of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) and the Vegetable Marketing Organization was about 773 tonnes. The average wholesale prices of choi sum and pak choi stood at \$6.50 and \$6.00 per catty respectively yesterday, largely comparable to the levels of a normal day. The supply of eggs to the wholesale market remained steady, with the average daily supply standing at about 3.5 million for the past week, largely comparable to the average daily supply on a normal day last year.

The total supply of chilled meat from the Mainland yesterday was over 37 tonnes. The supply of live pigs was plentiful.

The supply of chilled poultry from the Mainland was about 140 000 head yesterday, and over 12 000 live chickens were slaughtered locally. The supply was abundant.

Regarding the rice supply, in compliance with the requirement by the Government, stockholders of rice have to maintain the reserve stock of rice at a level sufficient for consumption by the local population for 15 days. The trade generally stocks double the required amount, which is sufficient for one month's consumption by Hong Kong citizens. In recent years, the import and consumption of rice in Hong Kong has stood at a steady level of around 320 000 to 330 000 tonnes per year. The import quantity (including reserve stock) as of end-March 2022 was 27 300 tonnes. Suppliers also maintain a reserve for food that can be stored, such as frozen meat, for around three months' stock generally.

The Government will continue to maintain close liaison with the Mainland authorities and major food suppliers to ensure a stable food supply.

â€‹The AFCD updates and publishes the fresh food supply information daily. Members of the public may visit the AFCD website for updates on daily supplies and wholesale prices of fresh food ([www.afcd.gov.hk/english/agriculture/agr\\_fresh/agr\\_fresh.html](http://www.afcd.gov.hk/english/agriculture/agr_fresh/agr_fresh.html)).

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## Two property owners fined about \$130,000 in total for persistently not complying with removal orders

Two property owners were convicted and each fined over \$60,000 at the Eastern Magistrates' Courts this month for persistently failing to comply with removal orders issued under the Buildings Ordinance (BO) (Cap. 123).

The two cases involved an unauthorised flat roof structure of about 70 square metres in a composite building on King's Road, North Point, and an unauthorised structure of about 54 sq m erected at Stanley Main Beach.

As the unauthorised building works (UBWs) were constructed without prior approval and consent from the Buildings Department (BD), removal orders were served on the owners under section 24(1) of the BO.

Regarding the case in North Point, the owner was prosecuted by the BD in 2019 and was fined \$19,000 upon conviction at the Eastern Magistrates' Courts. As the owner persisted in not complying with the removal order, the owner was prosecuted by the BD for the second time and was convicted again and fined \$65,000 on April 21.

In the other case, the owner concerned was prosecuted by the BD in 2015 and 2019 and was fined about \$44,000 in total upon conviction at the Eastern Magistrates' Courts. As the owner persisted in not complying with the removal order, the owner was prosecuted by the BD for the third time and was convicted again and fined \$63,200 on April 14.

A spokesman for the BD said today (April 27), "UBWs may lead to serious consequences. Owners must comply with the removal orders without delay. The BD will continue to take enforcement action against owners who have failed to comply with the removal orders (including instigation of prosecution) so as to ensure building safety."

Failure to comply with a removal order without reasonable excuse is a serious offence under the BO. The maximum penalty upon conviction is one year's imprisonment and a fine of \$200,000, and a further fine of \$20,000 for each day that the offence continues.

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## **Government finishes exercise on "restriction-testing declaration" in**

## respect of specified "restricted area" in Tip Sum House, Butterfly Estate, Tuen Mun, and enforcement operation for breaches of compulsory testing notice

The Government yesterday (April 26) exercised the power under the Prevention and Control of Disease (Compulsory Testing for Certain Persons) Regulation (Cap. 599J) to make a "restriction-testing declaration" with effect from 4.30pm yesterday, under which people (hereafter referred to as "persons subject to compulsory testing") within the specified "restricted area" in Tuen Mun (i.e. Tip Sum House, Butterfly Estate, Tuen Mun, excluding elderly home thereat and Butterfly Plaza) were required to stay in their premises and undergo compulsory testing. Persons subject to compulsory testing were required to stay in their premises until all such persons identified in the "restricted area" had undergone testing and the test results were mostly ascertained.

In addition, the Government issued a compulsory testing notice yesterday, requiring any person who had been present at the above building for more than two hours from April 20 to April 26, 2022, even if they were not present in the "restricted area" at the time when the declaration took effect, must undergo compulsory testing on or before April 28, 2022.

The Government finished the compulsory testing exercise at around 7.30am today (April 27) and carried out enforcement action in the "restricted area" afterwards to verify that all people in the "restricted area" had undergone compulsory testing in accordance with the requirements of the relevant declaration and compulsory testing notice. The Government announced that the enforcement operation ended at around 9.30am today.

The Government delivered food packs to persons subject to compulsory testing to facilitate their meal arrangements. Anti-epidemic proprietary Chinese medicines supplied by the Central People's Government and rapid test kits were also provided to persons subject to compulsory testing to help them fight against the virus. The Housing Department set up a hotline for people restricted by the declaration to make enquiries and seek assistance.

The Government thanks persons subject to compulsory testing for their support and understanding. With everyone's co-operation and efforts, coupled with the tireless efforts of the testing contractors, residents have been informed about their testing results by SMS notification. After finishing the compulsory testing exercise at around 7.30am today, the Government took enforcement action in the "restricted area" immediately to verify that all people in the "restricted area" had undergone testing according to the

requirements of the declaration and the compulsory testing notice. Persons who could present an SMS notification containing a negative test result as proof of having undergone the compulsory testing could leave the "restricted area" through the designated exit after providing personal information to a prescribed officer. The enforcement operation was completed at around 9.30am. Test records of about 430 persons subject to compulsory testing were checked. Seven persons were found to have not undergone compulsory testing and compulsory testing orders were issued to them. Taking into account the above situation, the Secretary for Food and Health revoked the "restriction-testing declaration" in accordance with Cap. 599J (see attachment).

The Government reminded the households who have not answered the door to contact the Government for arrangement of testing as soon as possible after reading the notices put up by the Government, in the hope of eliminating the possible risk of further spread of the virus in the community.

The Government thanks all participating government staff and the testing agencies for their hard work. The Government is also grateful to those subject to compulsory testing for their support and understanding, and their full co-operation during this period in undergoing testing and waiting for the results at home.

The Government will seriously follow up on the compliance situation of the compulsory testing notices and the "restriction-testing declaration" by persons subject to compulsory testing. Any person who fails to comply with the compulsory testing notices commits an offence and may be fined a fixed penalty of \$10,000. The person would also be issued with a compulsory testing order requiring him or her to undergo testing within a specified time frame. Failure to comply with the compulsory testing order or the "restriction-testing declaration" is an offence and the offender would be liable to a fine at level 5 (\$50,000) and imprisonment for six months.

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