

Woman sentenced for breaching compulsory quarantine order

A 23-year-old woman was sentenced to immediate imprisonment for 10 days by the Kowloon City Magistrates' Courts today (May 25) for violating the Compulsory Quarantine of Certain Persons Arriving at Hong Kong Regulation (Cap. 599C).

The woman was earlier issued a compulsory quarantine order stating that she must conduct quarantine at home for 14 days. Before the expiry of the quarantine order, she left the place of quarantine without reasonable excuse nor permission given by an authorised officer and was stopped by staff of the Immigration Department at Shenzhen Bay Control Point on February 25. She 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 (DH) said the sentence sends a clear message to the community that breaching a quarantine order 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 epidemic.

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 in 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 would also be subject to compulsory quarantine for 14 days. Breaching a quarantine order is a criminal offence and offenders are subject to a maximum fine of \$25,000 and imprisonment for six months. The DH solemnly reminds persons under quarantine to comply with the statutory requirements and conduct quarantine for 14 days.

Public urged to keep up anti-mosquito efforts

Starting from last month, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) has put in place newly designed gravidtraps as a replacement for the ovitraps previously used to directly count the number of adult mosquitoes to enumerate the gravidtrap index and the new density index. The FEHD today (May 25) announced that the monthly gravidtrap index for *Aedes albopictus* (MGI)

for April was 4.7 per cent, indicating that the infestation of *Aedes albopictus* in the areas surveyed was not extensive, while the monthly density index for *Aedes albopictus* (MDI) for April was 1.2, which represented that an average of 1.2 *Aedes albopictus* adults was found in the *Aedes*-positive gravidtraps, indicating that the number of adult mosquitoes was not high. The FEHD reminded the public to carry out effective prevention and control measures against mosquitoes as the summer weather will help mosquitoes breed quickly.

Among the 57 areas surveyed last month, positive gravidtrap indices, ranging from 0.8 per cent to 25.6 per cent, were recorded in 52 areas. Cheung Chau (25.6 per cent) was the only area with the area gravidtrap index (AGI) exceeding the alert level of 20 per cent, and its area density index (ADI) was 1.4. As for the port areas, the Monthly Port Gravidtrap Index for April was 0.4 per cent, while the Monthly Port Density Index was 1.1.

The function of the new gravidtrap index is similar to that of the ovitrap index previously used in reflecting the extensiveness of distribution of *Aedes albopictus* in the surveyed area. Given the differences in design and operation between the previous ovitrap surveillance tool and the new gravidtraps, direct comparison of the gravidtrap index with the previous ovitrap index is not relevant. The new gravidtrap index indicates the average number of adult *Aedes albopictus* collected in each *Aedes*-positive gravidtrap in the surveyed area in order to better quantify the activity level of *Aedes albopictus*.

The AGI and the ADI indicate the extensiveness of distribution and the density of *Aedes* mosquitoes respectively in that particular surveyed area, while the MGI and the MDI are enumerated by pooling together all AGIs and ADIs of the same month, which reflects the general situation of *Aedes albopictus* in all surveyed areas.

The Gravidtrap Index for *Aedes albopictus* is divided into four levels, reflecting the infestation level of *Aedes albopictus*. Level 1 (less than 5 per cent) indicates that infestation of the mosquito is not extensive in the area surveyed. Level 2 (5 per cent to less than 20 per cent) indicates that infestation of the mosquito is slightly more extensive in the area surveyed. Level 3 (20 per cent to less than 40 per cent) indicates that infestation of the mosquito exceeds one-fifth of the area surveyed. Level 4 (40 per cent or above) indicates that almost half of the surveyed area is infested with the mosquito. Specific preventive and control measures will be initiated accordingly.

The FEHD will collect the data of the density index this year to evaluate the effectiveness of mosquito control work. After sufficient data has been collected, the FEHD will establish a reference level for the corresponding prevention and control measures for the density index.

A spokesman for the FEHD said, "*Aedes albopictus* is a kind of mosquito that can transmit dengue fever (DF) as well as Zika virus infection. DF is commonly found in tropical and subtropical regions of the world, and has

become endemic in many countries in Southeast Asia. The World Health Organization also issued warnings that the number of DF cases recorded in Asia last year was higher than before. As Hong Kong has recorded this year's first local DF case last month and the dengue activity in neighbouring areas has remained high, and Hong Kong's hot and rainy summer is conducive to the proliferation of mosquitoes, the community must stay vigilant and work with the Government to carry out effective mosquito control measures."

The FEHD has conducted anti-mosquito operations at locations where a positive index was recorded. Additionally, an inter-departmental anti-mosquito response mechanism has been activated in Cheung Chau, where the AGI reached the alert level for co-ordinating relevant departments and stakeholders to carry out effective mosquito prevention and control measures. Relevant departments have also individually notified the groups that had voluntarily subscribed to the gravidtrap rapid alert system when the AGI reached the alert level of 20 per cent. Subscribers have been invited to post specially designed alert notices in the common parts of their premises to remind occupants and staff to carry out anti-mosquito measures promptly.

The spokesman said that relevant government departments have enhanced co-operation and last month commenced the All-out Anti-mosquito Operations, which will run until the end of the rainy season, to start fogging operations specifically at high-risk areas to eradicate adult mosquitoes.

The spokesman said, "The major anti-mosquito measures of the All-out Anti-mosquito Operations include carrying out fogging in the scrubby areas within a 100-metre radius around residences weekly to kill adult mosquitoes; carrying out inspections, removing stagnant water, applying insecticide and disposing of abandoned water containers weekly to prevent mosquito breeding; and trimming of grass to discourage resting of adult mosquitoes on the site. The FEHD and relevant government departments will continue the above mosquito prevention and control work in areas under their purview, and will strengthen publicity and education campaigns in the coming months. In addition, the FEHD collaborates with relevant government departments every year to conduct the three-phase Anti-mosquito Campaign. The second phase of the Anti-mosquito Campaign started on April 20 and will last until June 19. During the period, the district offices of the FEHD have targeted areas which have drawn particular concern, such as locations in close proximity to human residences, schools, construction sites, public housing estates, hospitals, illegal cultivation sites, waterfront public and private cargo handling areas, cross-boundary checkpoints, typhoon shelters and cross-boundary ferry terminals, to remove accumulated water and carry out mosquito prevention and control work. The FEHD will, after the second phase of the campaign, conduct territory-wide thematic mosquito prevention and control special operations so as to enhance the effectiveness of the campaign."

The spokesman added that as *Aedes albopictus* breeds in small water bodies, members of the public should carry out effective mosquito prevention and control measures including inspecting their homes and surroundings to remove potential breeding grounds, changing the water in vases and scrubbing the inner surfaces, removing the water in saucers under potted plants at

least once a week, properly disposing of containers such as soft drink cans and lunch boxes, and drilling large holes in unused tyres. He also advised public and estate management bodies to keep drains free of blockage and level all defective ground surfaces to prevent accumulation of water. They should also scrub all drains and surface sewers with an alkaline detergent at least once a week to remove any mosquito eggs.

In addition, rural areas and the vicinity of shrubby areas are natural habitats for mosquitoes, other insects and animals. Members of the public living in rural areas may install mosquito screens on windows and doors if necessary. Those staying in the natural environment should take appropriate personal protective measures against mosquitoes, such as avoiding staying in the vicinity of shrubby areas for a long time, wearing light-coloured long-sleeved clothes and trousers and applying DEET-containing insect repellent. Members of the public are reminded to make reports to relevant government departments via 1823 if mosquito problems are detected.

The spokesman reiterated that effective mosquito control requires the sustained effort of all parties concerned. The community must work together with the Government to carry out effective mosquito control measures.

The gravidtrap and density indices for *Aedes albopictus* in different areas and information on mosquito prevention and control measures are available on the department's website at www.fehd.gov.hk.

[Update on suspected food poisoning cases involving sandwiches](#)

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health today (May 25) provided an update on its investigation into the suspected food poisoning cases involving sandwiches announced on May 21 and 22, and reminded the public to maintain personal, food and environmental hygiene to prevent food-borne diseases.

The CHP has today identified 26 more clusters of suspected food poisonings relating to those sandwiches. The newly reported clusters involved 25 males and 40 females aged 1 to 64. They developed gastroenteritis symptoms including abdominal pain, vomiting, diarrhoea and fever about two to 30 hours after consuming the sandwiches. Among them, 54 sought medical consultation and 15 required hospitalisation.

As of 4pm today, the CHP has identified a total of 37 clusters of suspected food poisonings, affecting 93 persons. Among them, a stool specimen of one affected person tested positive for Group D Salmonella.

All affected persons are now in stable condition. Investigations are proceeding.

"Prolonged storage of food at room temperature may allow pathogens to grow and produce toxins. Members of the public should avoid consuming cooked or ready-to-eat food that has been kept at room temperature for several hours," a spokesman for the CHP said.

To prevent food-borne diseases, members of the public are reminded to maintain personal, food and environmental hygiene at all times. When dining out:

- Patronise only reliable and licensed restaurants;
- Avoid eating raw seafood;
- Be a discerning consumer in choosing cold dishes, including sashimi, sushi and raw oysters, at a buffet;
- Ensure food is thoroughly cooked before eating during a hot pot or barbecue meal;
- Handle raw and cooked foods carefully and separate them completely during the cooking process;
- Use two sets of chopsticks and utensils to handle raw and cooked food;
- Do not patronise illegal food hawkers;
- Drink boiled water;
- Do not try to use salt, vinegar, wine and wasabi to kill bacteria as they are not effective; and
- Always wash hands before eating and after going to the toilet.

Fraudulent website related to Livi VB Limited

The following is issued on behalf of the Hong Kong Monetary Authority:

The Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA) wishes to alert members of the public to a press release issued by Livi VB Limited on fraudulent website, which has been reported to the HKMA. Hyperlink to the press release is available on [the HKMA website](#) for ease of reference by members of the public.

Anyone who has provided his or her personal information to the website concerned or has conducted any financial transactions through the website should contact the bank concerned using the contact information provided in the press release, and report to the Police or contact the Cyber Security and Technology Crime Bureau of the Hong Kong Police Force at 2860 5012.

SCED speaks on draft Decision on establishing and improving legal system and enforcement mechanisms for HKSAR to safeguard national security

Following is the transcript of remarks by the Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development, Mr Edward Yau, on the draft Decision on establishing and improving the legal system and enforcement mechanisms for the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region to safeguard national security at the media session after attending a meeting of the Panel on Economic Development of the Legislative Council today (May 25):

Reporter: Many business chambers have expressed concern over the proposed national security law? What's your response to them? Are you worried about a "brain drain" because many talents may want to leave Hong Kong because of the uncertainties?

Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development: I think the draft Decision to be made by the NPC (National People's Congress) is one that is needed for Hong Kong. It has a very specific purpose focusing on the stopping of any acts of secession, subversion, terrorist activities as well as interference by foreign forces. We all notice that Hong Kong has undergone a very difficult time in recent years, particularly in 2019. In my meeting with many chambers and international interlocutors, while they expressed concern about Hong Kong in general, they also expressed their concern on whether Hong Kong will continue to be a safe city, which is a very important element in supporting international businesses in Hong Kong. I hope the draft Decision can pass and the enactment of the relevant law in Hong Kong could help to ease their mind that Hong Kong would be able to cope with the situation, to avoid social unrest, particularly those arising from activities that amount to terrorist activities. We have seen those activities recently emerging in Hong Kong. The seizures of lethal weapons are also cause for concern by the Government.

I believe we need to have a fuller articulation and explanation to the international chambers, making sure that they understand better about the draft Decision. I believe with fuller understanding, they would restore their confidence in Hong Kong. Because we do believe that the law, which is an essential part of upholding national security and stability, would also be conducive to the business environment in Hong Kong as an international city.

(Please also refer to the Chinese portion of the transcript.)