

Three persons sentenced for breaching compulsory quarantine order

Three persons were sentenced to immediate imprisonment of up to 14 days by the Tuen Mun Magistrates' Courts today (July 2) for violating the Compulsory Quarantine of Certain Persons Arriving at Hong Kong Regulation (Cap. 599C).

The first case involved a man aged 47. He was earlier issued a compulsory quarantine order stating that he must conduct quarantine at home for 14 days. Before the expiry of the quarantine order, he 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 the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge Control Point on March 1. He was charged with contravening sections 8(1) and 8(5) of the Regulation. He was sentenced by the Tuen Mun Magistrates' Courts today to imprisonment for 14 days.

The second and third cases involved a man aged 27 and a woman aged 32, who were earlier issued compulsory quarantine orders stating that they must conduct quarantine at home and at a hotel respectively for 14 days. Without reasonable excuse nor permission given by an authorised officer, they attempted to leave Hong Kong and were stopped by staff of the Immigration Department at Shenzhen Bay Control Point on May 29 and June 3 respectively. The 27-year-old man and 32-year-old woman were charged with contravening sections 8(4) and 8(5) of the Regulation. They were sentenced by the Tuen Mun Magistrates' Courts today to imprisonment for six days and four days respectively.

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 Department of Health (DH) solemnly reminds persons under quarantine to comply with the statutory requirements and conduct quarantine for 14 days.

A spokesman for the DH said the sentence sends a clear message to the community that breaching the Regulation is a criminal offence and that the Government will not tolerate such actions. As of today, a total of 26 persons have been convicted by the courts with imprisonment sentences of up to three months or a fine of \$10,000. The spokesman reiterated that resolute actions will be taken against anyone who has breached the Regulation.