

Woman sentenced for breaching compulsory quarantine order

A 42-year-old woman was sentenced to immediate imprisonment for seven days by the Tuen Mun Magistrates' Courts today (August 11) for violating the Compulsory Quarantine of Certain Persons Arriving at Hong Kong Regulation (Cap. 599C) (the Regulation).

The woman was earlier issued a compulsory quarantine order stating that she must conduct quarantine at a residential address stated by herself on the quarantine order for 14 days. The woman was later found to have given a false residential address for use as the place of quarantine to an authorised officer at the Shenzhen Bay Control Point. She was charged with contravening section 9 of the Regulation and was sentenced by the Tuen Mun Magistrates' Courts today to immediate imprisonment for seven days.

Pursuant to the Regulation, starting from February 8, 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.

A spokesman for the DH said the sentence sends a clear message to the community that breaching compulsory quarantine orders is a criminal offence that the Government will not tolerate and solemnly reminds the public to comply with the Regulation. As of today, a total of 37 persons have been convicted by the courts for breaching compulsory quarantine orders and have received sentences including immediate imprisonment for up to three months or fine of \$15,000. The spokesman reiterated that resolute actions will be taken against anyone who has breached the relevant regulations.