



香港特別行政區政府

Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government

# 同心抗疫 共渡時艱

2020年2月14日

Fight the Virus and Get Through the Difficult Times Together

14 February 2020



# Developments of the infection

- The number of confirmed cases has increased over the past week, indicating that infection situation remains critical. The Government is highly concerned about the situation.
- The first recovered patient was discharged from hospital the day before yesterday. The Government thanks the dedicated healthcare workers for taking care of the patients and hopes that other patients will recover soon.
- There has been no widespread community transmission. The source of infection of the cases can generally be traced, including the 11 cases involved in a Lunar New Year gathering.
- Expert: The containment strategy must be adhered to. The aim is to cut off the chain of local transmission.



# Handling of major events

- World Dream cruise

- Arrived in Hong Kong on 5 February, carrying some 1 800 passengers (with some 1 700 Hong Kong people) and some 1 800 crew members.
- To safeguard public health, the passengers and crew members were required to stay on board for the carrying out of port health quarantine work. We maintained close contact with the cruise company throughout the period to provide daily necessities to the passengers.
- After seeking advice from the experts, we started to conduct virus tests for over 1 800 crew members on board on 8 February.
- Through the joint efforts of various departments, the virus tests were completed on 9 February. All samples were negative. All passengers could leave the ship on the same day.



# Handling of major events

- Hong Mei House, Cheung Hong Estate
  - At night of 10 February, we were informed that there were confirmed cases living in the same unit on different floors.
  - As a precaution, we took the initiative to inspect the health conditions of over 100 residents living in the same unit and temporarily transfer them to quarantine centres based on the experts' advice so as to allow the technical staff of the Housing Department (HD) and the experts of the Department of Health (DH) to further inspect the conditions of the unit.
  - In parallel, the HD stepped up cleaning in the estate, while the DH and Home Affairs Department explained the situation to other residents.
  - The HD has completed the cleaning work for the unit on all floors today. The technical staff has also completed the inspection of pipes. The pipes in most units are in order. A few of them have been modified. The technical staff has already rectified them.
  - The Centre of Health Protection also conducts virus tests for the evacuated residents and strives to complete the tests as soon as possible.



# Providing assistance to Hong Kong residents outside Hong Kong

- Highly concerned about the situation of Hong Kong residents in the Mainland and overseas who are affected by the epidemic.
- Received over 1 100 cases of request for assistance from Hong Kong residents in Hubei province, involving over 2 200 people in more than 30 cities of the province. 10 Hong Kong residents have been confirmed to be infected with the virus and are receiving treatment in local hospitals.
- Diamond Princess cruise: A total of 330 Hong Kong people (260 of them holding a HKSAR passport) are on board. 11 of them have been confirmed to be infected with the virus and are receiving treatment in local hospitals. The rest remains on board.
- The staff of the HKSAR Government's Economic and Trade Offices and the Hong Kong Immigration Department are providing all practical assistance to them. The HKSAR Government will do its utmost to arrange for them to return to Hong Kong as soon as possible upon the formulation of specific plans on health protection, quarantine support as well as transportation arrangements.



# Compulsory quarantine

- Reducing the flow of people between the Mainland and Hong Kong is crucial to the prevention and control of the infection. The majority of people crossing the borders are Hong Kong residents.
- The implementation of a 14-day compulsory quarantine on people entering Hong Kong from the Mainland since 8 February has been smooth in general.
- The number of arrivals in Hong Kong has reduced significantly by 80%. A large majority (over 80%) of them entered Hong Kong from overseas through the Hong Kong International Airport.
- For the two land control points, only some 1 000 people (including those from Macao) entered Hong Kong through the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge each day, and a few hundreds through the Shenzhen Bay Control Point.
- As at midnight yesterday, the accumulated number of people under compulsory quarantine is 5 362. Around 90% are Hong Kong people, most undergoing home quarantine.
- Active monitoring through telephone calls, real-time location sharing, electronic bracelets and spot checks, etc.
- There are a few non-compliance cases. The Department of Justice and the DH are considering prosecutions.



# Increasing mask supply and reducing usage

- In view of the global shortage of masks, the Government Logistics Department (GLD) continues to make its best efforts to procure masks worldwide through different means and channels, mainly through direct purchase, not “the lowest bid wins”.
- Under the leadership of the Chief Secretary for Administration, all bureaux and departments have further cut down their mask requirements to a total usage of around 8 million masks per month. In addition, the Government considers it necessary to provide masks for the Government’s outsourced cleaning workers and for care homes for the elderly and disabled persons in Hong Kong. The monthly mask usage is 0.7 million and 1 million respectively.
- To ensure that Hong Kong has the capability to prevent and control the infection, and to maintain essential and emergency public services, the GLD’s stock is only adequate for 2 months’ consumption.
- Noting that the supply is also limited in the retail market, we will distribute a few batches of masks recently donated to the Government (with a total of 1.6 million masks) to the underprivileged, mainly the elderly, through non-government organisations to share our resources with the community and get through the difficult times together.



# Anti-epidemic Fund

## Objectives:

- (I) Enhancing territory-wide anti-epidemic measures**
- (II) Providing assistance to affected sectors and workers**

Moreover, the Financial Secretary will announce more wide-ranging measures to support the economy and relieve peoples' financial burden in the 2020-21 Budget. These include reviewing whether to extend or strengthen the previous 4 rounds of relief measures amounting to \$25 billion.



# Anti-epidemic Fund

## **(I) Enhancing territory-wide anti-epidemic measures**

### **Ensuring the supply of masks and personal protective equipment**

1. Undertake global procurement with Government fund
2. Provide subsidies to private enterprises to set up mask production lines in Hong Kong
3. Provide subsidies for the research, development and production of reusable masks



# Anti-epidemic Fund

## (I) Enhancing territory-wide anti-epidemic measures

### Ensuring the continued and effective implementation of the anti-epidemic measures

4. Provide an additional \$4.7 billion to the Hospital Authority  
( The estimated additional expenditure will be met by the 2019-20 and 2020-21 Estimates of the Department of Health.)
5. Enhance the electronic monitoring devices for home quarantine
6. Improve the efficiency of the emergency alert system to send urgent messages by mobile phones
7. Enhance the anti-epidemic measures at construction sites and improve the protective equipment for construction site workers



# Anti-epidemic Fund

## (I) Enhancing territory-wide anti-epidemic measures

### Ensuring the continued and effective implementation of the anti-epidemic measures

8. Provide a one-off grant of \$26,000 for private and public residential properties in Hong Kong, including a monthly additional allowance of \$1,000 for each cleansing worker and security worker employed by the property management companies during the virus outbreak
9. Provide a monthly additional allowance of \$1,000 for cleansing workers engaged under government service contracts during the virus outbreak
10. Provide a one-off special allowance of \$6,000 for the families allocated with public housing units at Chun Yeung Estate in Fo Tan and Fai Ming Estate in Fanling



# Anti-epidemic Fund

## **(II) Providing assistance to affected sectors and workers**

11. Provide a one-off subsidy of \$80,000 to each licensed travel agent
12. Provide a one-off subsidy of \$200,000 to each licensed restaurant and factory canteen, and a one-off subsidy of \$80,000 to each licensed light refreshment restaurant, food factory, fresh provision shop, siu mei and lo mei shop
13. Provide a one-off subsidy of \$80,000 to each retailer
14. Provide a one-off subsidy of \$5,000 to each licensed hawker



# Anti-epidemic Fund

## **(II) Providing assistance to affected sectors and workers**

15. Support the convention and exhibition industry by providing subsidies to exhibitors and conference organisers
16. Support the culture sector by providing subsidies to arts and cultural groups
17. Support the innovation and technology sector by providing rental waivers for tenants of Science Park and Cyberport
18. Provide subsidies to the training bodies appointed by the Employees Retraining Board



# Anti-epidemic Fund

## **(II) Providing assistance to affected sectors and workers**

19. Provide subsidies to aided and non-aided child care centres  
( The Education Bureau will also provide a one-off subsidy to all kindergartens with existing resources)
20. Provide an additional \$1,000 to each secondary, primary, kindergarten and special school student who receives the Student Grant for the 2019-20 school year ( i.e. the amount will be increased from \$2,500 to \$3,500 )
21. Provide a one-off special allowance to 200 000 low-income households with each receiving around \$5,000 on average



# Pushing ahead the measures in full steam

- The HKSAR Government will seek a one-off provision of not less than \$25 billion (including contingency provision) from the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council to implement the above measures as soon as possible and to make speedy response in light of the latest situation.
- The Chief Secretary for Administration will, together with relevant Directors of Bureaux, attend the Legislative Council meeting to be held on 19 February to answer questions raised by Members concerning the epidemic.
- Due to the urgency of the matter and the large number of the beneficiaries involved, we have proposed to the Chairman of the Financial Committee to hold a special meeting next week.
- **We appeal to the Legislative Council Members to approve the provisions.**



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