

Sha Tin Rural Committee
Arrangements for the event of drawing divination sticks
on the second day of the Lunar New Year during the Che Kung Festival

With the global prevalence of COVID-19, we have been combating the epidemic for nearly two years. The epidemic is still not under control as the virus has been mutating incessantly. At this difficult juncture, the Sha Tin Rural Committee (STRC) will continue to organise the event of drawing divination sticks (the event) for the Che Kung Festival on the second day of the Lunar New Year (i.e. 2 February 2022, Wednesday) for seeking spiritual blessing and removing misfortune. Given that the epidemic in Hong Kong has remained severe at present, the STRC will strictly implement various precautionary and anti-epidemic measures during the event in order to minimise the risk of virus transmission. Details of the arrangements for the event and the relevant precautionary measures are listed below:

Arrangements for the event:

- the practice of having Qilin to lead the way to the Che Kung Temple (the Temple) will be cancelled;
- the event will not be opened for public participation and only those being invited, staff members and media organisations which are being invited to cover the event are allowed to join the event;
- the Main Temple and Piazza will allow a maximum of 40 persons and 100 persons respectively;
- the start time of the event will be advanced and the event will take place before public opening hours, i.e. from 7:00 a.m. to around 7:45 a.m.;
- one-way flow will be adopted inside the Temple; and
- only a limited number of media organisations will be allowed in the Temple.

Precautionary measures for compliance by participants:

- All participants are required to:
 - wear face masks throughout the event;
 - have their temperature checked before entering the Temple, and the STRC may refuse admission of any person whose body temperature is higher than 37.5 degrees Celsius;
 - scan the “LeaveHomeSafe” QR code before entering the Temple; for those who do not bring along smartphones, the STRC will record their names and contact details in order to facilitate contact tracing work; and
 - maintain a social distance of at least 1.5 metres apart from each other in accordance with the marks on the floor of the Temple.
- Apart from complying with the above precautionary measures, the participants who enter the Main Temple are also required to undergo a COVID-19 test within 48 hours before the event and have a negative test result.

If you have any enquiries about the event or wish to cover the news at the event, please contact the STRC as soon as possible (at phone number 2691 1465) so that the STRC can make relevant decisions and necessary arrangements. If there are any changes or refinements to the above measures, the STRC will make announcements in due course.