



本署檔號 Our Ref. HAD/LA/1/2/6

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5 November 2020

To: Hotel/Guesthouse/Holiday Flat/Holiday Camp Licensees

Dear Sir/Madam,

Health Advice from the Centre for Health Protection on Prevention of Coronavirus disease (COVID-19)

The local epidemic situation has continued to subside since mid-October. However, new confirmed cases with unknown sources of infection have still been identified over the past week, indicating the existence of silent transmission chains in the community. In addition, it is worrying that the number of locally acquired cases has shown an increasing trend in recent days and that we are seeing small cluster outbreaks as a result of anti-epidemic fatigue and frequent social activities in the community. Concerted efforts by all parties in fighting the epidemic, staying vigilant in maintaining personal and environmental hygiene, and compliance with social distancing measures are essential for preventing the spread of the disease in the community.

2. We have appealed to licensees in our past communication to make reference to the health advice given by the Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health. The health advice will be updated from time to time by the CHP taking into account the latest situation. The latest version, updated on 23 October 2020, is available for download at the link below.

www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/nid_guideline_hotel_serving_guests_eng.pdf

3. The Government also gives directions and specifications under the Prevention and Control of Disease (Requirements and Directions) (Business and Premises) Regulation (Cap. 599F), the Prevention and Control of Disease (Prohibition on Group Gathering) Regulation (Cap. 599G) and the Prevention and Control of Disease (Wearing of Mask) Regulation (Cap. 599I) to impose social distancing restrictions at different premises/venues. Please refer to the Government press release of 3 November 2020 for the latest directions.

www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202011/03/P2020110300750.htm?fontSize=1

4. The Government will continue to closely monitor the development of the epidemic situation and consider if there is room for relaxing social distancing measures in the next stage, subject to whether the epidemic situation is continually under control and the number of locally confirmed cases is maintained at a low level. If the epidemic situation fluctuates persistently and even shows signs of a rebound, the Government does not rule out tightening again the existing anti-epidemic measures including social distancing measures. As a rebound in the epidemic situation may bring about early the fourth wave of the local epidemic, which would likely coincide with the peak of the winter influenza season, such tightening of anti-epidemic measures may need to be pursued within a shorter period of time and to a larger extent as compared with the previous wave.

5. The Office of the Licensing Authority (OLA) appeals to the hotel and guesthouse sector to follow the above-mentioned health advice, and continue to pay attention and comply with the directions and specifications made under Cap. 599F, Cap 599G and Cap 599I which are to be effective during respective validity periods and applicable to areas under their management (e.g. public places, catering premises, party room, etc.). Please note that the OLA has been authorised to follow up complaints and conduct inspections at its licensed premises to ascertain the applicable directions and specifications under Cap. 599F, Cap. 599G and Cap. 599I are properly complied with.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed)

(Ms. PANG Mei-tuan, Pauline)
Chief Officer (Licensing Authority)
Office of the Licensing Authority