民政事務總署 牌照事務處 香港太古城太古灣道十四號十樓



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9 December 2020

To: All Club Certificate of Compliance Holders or Responsible Persons

Dear Sir/Madam,

Latest Directions by the Secretary for Food and Health published on 8 December 2020

Hong Kong is experiencing a peak period of COVID-19 epidemic. Although the Government has tightened social distancing measures since December 2 to suppress the latest wave of the epidemic, we do not observe significant reduction of gathering activities in the community. It is imperative to adopt more stringent measures in order to discourage members of the public from going out unnecessarily.

2. The Secretary for Food and Health issued new directions on 8 December 2020, under the Prevention and Control of Disease (Requirements and Directions) (Business and Premises) Regulation (Cap. 599F) ("Regulation"). The new directions take effect from <u>10 December</u> <u>2020 to 23 December 2020</u>, for a period of 14 days. For club-houses, the major requirements and restrictions are as follows –

I. Catering Business

(a) From 6 p.m. to 4:59 a.m. of the subsequent day, a person responsible for carrying on a catering business must cease selling or supplying food or drink for consumption on the premises of the business; and close any premises, or part of the premises, on which food or drink is sold or supplied by the business for consumption on the premises. The premises concerned may still sell or supply food and/or drink for takeaway services and deliveries. A person responsible for carrying on a catering business is also required to put up a notice at the entrance to the catering premises to remind customers that food or drink should not be consumed in areas adjacent to the catering premises;

- (b) The number of people participating in banquets in catering premises is limited to 20;
- (c) Other requirements and restrictions on catering business will be maintained, including the following requirements: no more than two persons may be seated together at one table within any catering premises; the number of customers must not exceed 50 per cent of the normal seating capacity; persons must not consume food or drink and must wear a mask when they are away from the table; and no live performance and dancing is allowed, etc. A person responsible for carrying on a catering business must display the poster containing the "LeaveHomeSafe" venue QR code at the entrance of the premises or at a conspicuous location which must be unobstructed at any one time so that it is readily accessible for scanning with a mobile phone by a person entering the catering premises and the size of the image of the poster displayed must not be not less than 210 x 297mm (A4 size); and
- (d) Bars and pubs wukk continue to be closed.

II. Facilities in club-houses (if any) that are being used or operated as premises mentioned below must be closed –

- (a) Amusement game centres;
- (b) Bathhouses;
- (c) Fitness centres;
- (d) Places of amusement;
- (e) Places of public entertainment;
- (f) Premises (commonly known as party rooms) that are maintained or intended to be maintained for hire for holding social gatherings;
- (g) Beauty parlours;
- (h) Establishments (commonly known as clubs or nightclubs) that are open late into the night, usually for drinking, and dancing or other entertainment;
- (i) Karaoke establishments;
- (j) Mahjong-tin kau premises;
- (k) Massage establishments;
- (l) Sports premises; and
- (m) Swimming pools.

3. For details of the further tightening of social distancing measures under Prevention and Control of Disease Ordinance and the summary of the latest directions, please refer to the Government press release¹ published on 8 December 2020 and the two Government Notices published in Government Gazette².

4. The Office of the Licensing Authority of the Home Affairs Department will step up inspections to various premises to ascertain the compliance to the directions. Since the epidemic situation could fluctuate, special arrangements may have to be re-introduced at short notice. Please continue to pay attention to further updates available on the website of the Centre for Health Protection of the Department of Health. Thank you for your support.

Yours faithfully,

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

¹ Government press release published on 8 December 2020: <u>https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202012/08/P2020120800780.htm</u>

² Government Notice published in Government Gazette on 8 December 2020: <u>https://www.gld.gov.hk/egazette/pdf/202024123e/egn202024123232.pdf</u> <u>https://www.gld.gov.hk/egazette/pdf/202024123e/egn202024123233.pdf</u>