

# [AFCD reminds public to wear masks in country parks \(with photos\)](#)

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) today (February 28) reminded members of the public to wear a mask and maintain appropriate social distancing in country parks.

In view of the gravity of the COVID-19 epidemic, the Government amended the Prevention and Control of Disease (Wearing of Mask) Regulation (Cap. 599I) that specified public places with a mask-wearing requirement had been expanded to cover all areas of country parks. Starting from February 24, all persons shall wear a mask in country parks.

An AFCD spokesman said, "AFCD officers have strengthened publicity in country parks since last weekend to remind visitors to wear a mask. Notices have been put up at suitable locations. The AFCD will continue to step up patrols."

The spokesman also noted that, "To reduce social contact, all barbecue sites and campsites under the management of the AFCD have been closed. During the closure of the facilities, no one should engage in camping or barbecuing activities in country parks, or enter a cordoned-off area. Offenders are liable to prosecution. The AFCD took enforcement action against about 460 persons suspected of having violated relevant regulations so far this year (as of February 27). The AFCD will continue to step up patrols. Enforcement action will be taken upon any violation of relevant laws."

The spokesman appealed to members of the public to avoid visiting crowded areas and group gatherings, maintain personal and environmental hygiene and appropriate social distancing in country parks. They should properly dispose of used masks and waste, and take their litter home to minimise the risk of spreading the virus in the community, and protect the environment.

