

[AFCD steps up enforcement in country parks and urges compliance with anti-epidemic laws \(with photos\)](#)

In view of the gravity of the COVID-19 epidemic, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) today (March 14) reminded members of the public to strictly observe anti-epidemic laws and regulations in country parks. The AFCD has stepped up enforcement action to deter irregularities in country parks.

A spokesman for the AFCD stressed, "To reduce social contact, all barbecue sites and campsites under the management of the AFCD have been closed. According to the Country Parks and Special Areas Regulations (Cap. 208A), during the closure of the facilities, no one should be engaged in camping or barbecuing activities in country parks, or enter a cordoned-off area. Members of the public must comply with provisions of the Prevention and Control of Disease (Prohibition on Gathering) Regulation (Cap. 599G). The number of people in group gatherings should not be more than two persons. In addition, the Prevention and Control of Disease (Wearing of Mask) Regulation (Cap. 599I) specified that public places with a mask-wearing requirement had been expanded to cover all areas of country parks. All persons shall wear a mask in country parks. Violation is subject to prosecution."

The spokesman also noted, "The AFCD has stepped up patrol and law enforcement in country parks, and mounted special enforcement operations and joint enforcement operations with relevant departments from time to time. So far this year (as of March 13), enforcement action was taken against 490 persons suspected of having violated relevant regulations. The AFCD will continue to step up patrols and take resolute enforcement action upon any violation of relevant laws."

The current epidemic situation in Hong Kong is very severe. The spokesman urges members of the public to avoid going out as much as possible and stay away from crowded areas in country parks if planning visits, comply with social distancing measures as well as maintaining personal and environmental hygiene. They should properly dispose of used masks and waste, and take their litter home to minimise the risk of community spread of the virus and protect the environment.

