

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

In view of the gravity of the COVID-19 epidemic, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) today (February 15) reminded members of the public to maintain appropriate social distancing and strictly observe laws and regulations concerning prohibition of group gatherings in country parks.

A spokesman for the AFCD stressed that, "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. Offenders are liable to prosecution. In addition, 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 that stipulated by the law. Offenders are liable to prosecution. "

The spokesman also noted that, "The AFCD took enforcement action against over 400 persons suspected of having violated relevant regulations in the first month or so this year (as of February 14). The AFCD will continue to step up patrols. Resolute enforcement action will be taken upon any violation of relevant laws."

The spokesman appealed to members of the public to exercise self-discipline and avoid group gatherings, maintain personal and environmental hygiene and appropriate social distancing in country parks. They should wear a mask, 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.