

[AFCD steps up enforcement in country parks and urges visitors to heed anti-epidemic laws \(with photo\)](#)

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) today (December 31) reminded country park visitors to maintain an appropriate social distance with other people and strictly observe laws and regulations concerning prohibition of group gatherings in light of the latest developments of COVID-19.

A spokesman for the AFCD stressed that, "To reduce social contact, the 163 barbecue sites and 41 campsites under the management of the AFCD have been closed since July 15. Details of these sites are available on the AFCD's website (www.afcd.gov.hk). During the closure of the facilities, no one should carry out barbecuing or camping activities in country parks, or enter a cordoned-off area. Offenders are liable to prosecution."

The spokesman also noted that, "As at December 30 this year, the AFCD took enforcement action against over 700 persons suspected to have breached the relevant laws. Patrols and enforcement action were stepped up during the Christmas holidays. Over the last week, enforcement action was taken against 38 persons suspected of breaching the relevant laws."

The spokesman appealed to members of the public to comply with the Prevention and Control of Disease (Prohibition on Group Gathering) Regulation (Cap. 599G). The number of people in group gatherings should not be more than that as stipulated by the law. Offenders are liable to prosecution. They should exercise self-discipline to minimise the risk of community spread of the virus. Staff of the AFCD and other departments concerned will continue to step up patrols over the New Year holiday. Enforcement action will be taken upon any violation of relevant laws.

The spokesman also reminded country park visitors to maintain personal and environmental hygiene and social distancing. Visitors should wear a mask, properly dispose of used masks and waste, and take their litter home.

