

Anti-epidemic Fund allowance for cleaning and security workers extended for three months

The Government announced today (June 16) that the monthly allowance of \$1,000 under the Anti-epidemic Fund for eligible cleaning and security workers engaged by service contractors of the Government and the Hong Kong Housing Authority (HA) will be provided for a further three months.

Under the original measure, frontline cleaning workers, toilet attendants and security workers employed by relevant contractors can receive a monthly allowance of \$1,000 for a period of no fewer than four months throughout the epidemic period. So far, over 70 government departments have made arrangements with their contractors. The allowance has been disbursed to some 60 000 workers who performed duties in March, April and May, amounting to approximately \$180 million. Workers who perform duties in June will also receive the allowance.

The Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury, Mr Christopher Hui, said, "As the epidemic situation may fluctuate, there is a need for anti-epidemic measures to remain. In this connection, we have decided to extend the measure for three months to cover workers who perform duties in July, August and September. This is to give due recognition to our outsourced frontline workers for their committed services provided at this critical juncture, and to continue our support for their anti-epidemic efforts."

Relevant departments will notify their contractors in writing to confirm the extension. Workers do not need to submit any application for the allowance. On a monthly basis, departments will give the allowance to the workers concerned through the contractors.

In view of the development of the epidemic, outsourced cleaning workers and toilet attendants have been rendering assistance in the enhanced cleaning and disinfection of premises and public areas of the Government and the HA, so as to keep up good environmental hygiene. Outsourced security workers have been maintaining frequent contact with the general public as part of their duties. The allowance under the Anti-epidemic Fund is being disbursed to give recognition to these outsourced frontline workers for their anti-epidemic efforts.

Workers with enquiries may contact their contractors or the relevant departments.