

Two persons sentenced for breaching compulsory quarantine order

Two persons were sentenced by the Eastern Magistrates' Courts today (May 24) for violating the Compulsory Quarantine of Certain Persons Arriving at Hong Kong Regulation (Cap. 599C) and the Compulsory Quarantine of Persons Arriving at Hong Kong from Foreign Places Regulation (Cap. 599E) respectively.

The first case involved a woman aged 51, who was earlier issued a compulsory quarantine order stating that she must conduct quarantine at a residential premises for seven days. Before the expiry of the quarantine order, she left the place of quarantine on October 6, 2021, without reasonable excuse nor permission given by an authorised officer. She was charged with contravening sections 8(1) and 8(5) of Cap. 599C and was sentenced today to imprisonment for 14 days suspended for 12 months.

The second case involved a man aged 76, who was earlier issued a compulsory quarantine order stating that he must conduct quarantine at a hotel for 14 days. Before the expiry of the quarantine order, he passed some items he brought with him during immigration to another person on October 4, 2021, without reasonable excuse nor permission given by an authorised officer. He was charged with contravening sections 8(4) and 8(5) of Cap. 599E and was fined \$8,000 today.

Breaching a compulsory quarantine order is a criminal offence and offenders are subject to a maximum fine of \$25,000 and imprisonment for six months. A spokesman for the Department of Health said the sentence sends a clear message to the community that breaching a quarantine order is a criminal offence that the Government will not tolerate, and solemnly reminded the public to comply with the regulations. As of today, a total of 236 persons have been convicted by the courts for breaching quarantine orders and have received sentences including immediate imprisonment for up to 14 weeks or a fine of up to \$15,000. The spokesman reiterated that resolute actions will be taken against anyone who has breached the relevant regulations.

Government makes “restriction-testing declaration” and issues compulsory testing notice in respect of specified

“restricted area” in Block L, Sunshine City, Ma On Shan

The Government today (May 24) exercised the power under the Prevention and Control of Disease (Compulsory Testing for Certain Persons) Regulation (Cap. 599J) to make a "restriction-testing declaration" (declaration) effective from 6pm, under which people (hereafter referred to as "persons subject to compulsory testing") within the specified "restricted area" in Ma On Shan (i.e. Block L, Sunshine City, Ma On Shan, excluding levels below the podium, see Annex) are required to stay in their premises and undergo compulsory testing. Persons subject to compulsory testing are required to stay in their premises until all such persons identified in the "restricted area" have undergone testing and the test results are mostly ascertained. The Government aims at finishing this exercise at around 9am tomorrow (May 25). The operation may be extended depending on test results.

A Government spokesman said, "Under Cap. 599J, the Government can, according to the needs of infection control, make a 'restriction-testing declaration'. Having reviewed a basket of factors, including the viral load in sewage, the information of relevant positive cases, and other circumstantial factors, and conducted a risk assessment, the Government decided to make a 'restriction-testing declaration' for the relevant area."

The Government has set up temporary specimen collection stations at the "restricted area" and requested persons subject to compulsory testing to undergo testing before 11.30pm today. Arrangements will be made for persons subject to compulsory testing to undergo a nucleic acid test at specimen collection stations where dedicated staff will collect samples through combined nasal and throat swabs. Persons subject to compulsory testing must stay at their place of residence until all test results are ascertained to avoid cross-infection risk. The Government will make arrangement to facilitate specimen collection for people with impaired mobility. All persons in the "restricted area" who have tested positive in the past 14 days, including positive cases identified either by nucleic acid tests recorded by the Department of Health (DH) or by rapid antigen tests that have been self-declared to the DH, will not be required to undergo testing in this compulsory testing exercise.

The Government spokesman said, "We understand that this exercise will cause inconvenience to the public. The Government has made arrangements to carry out testing for all persons present in the 'restricted area' as soon as possible. The aim is to strive to complete testing of all identified persons subject to compulsory testing and confirm the results, and finish the exercise at around 9am tomorrow. The Government will make a public announcement when the declaration expires officially. In the cases in which employees are unable to go to work because of the declaration, the Government hopes their employers can exercise discretion and not deduct the salaries or benefits of the employees."

If staying in the "restricted area" will cause unreasonable hardship to individuals who are not residents in the area when the declaration takes effect, government officers may exercise discretion and allow that person to leave the area after considering the individual circumstances. That person must have followed the instructions to undergo testing and leave his/her personal information for contact purposes.

According to the compulsory testing notice to be issued today, any persons other than those specified above who had been present at the above building for more than two hours from May 18 to May 24, 2022, even if they were not present in the "restricted area" at the time when the declaration took effect, must undergo compulsory testing on or before May 26, 2022. As a mutant strain is involved, for prudence's sake, vaccinated persons and persons who have recently been tested are also required to undergo testing.

The Lands Department has set up a hotline (Tel: 2231 5955) which starts operation at 6pm today for residents restricted by the declaration to make enquiries and seek assistance. The Social Welfare Department will also provide assistance to the affected persons.

The Government appeals to persons subject to compulsory testing for their full co-operation by registering and undergoing testing, and waiting for the results patiently at home. The Government will strictly follow up on whether the persons concerned have complied with the compulsory testing notices and "restriction-testing declaration". Any person who fails to comply with the compulsory testing notices commits an offence and may be fined a fixed penalty of \$10,000. The person would also be issued with a compulsory testing order requiring him or her to undergo testing within a specified time frame. Failure to comply with the compulsory testing order or the "restriction-testing declaration" is an offence and the offender would be liable to a fine at level 5 (\$50,000) and imprisonment for six months.

[Update on supplies from Mainland](#)

The Task Force of Supplies from the Mainland led by the Transport and Housing Bureau (THB) has been working closely with the Guangdong Provincial Government and the Shenzhen Municipal People's Government to explore various means to stabilise the supply of goods from the Mainland to Hong Kong. In addition to road transport arrangements, transportation of goods by water and railway is already in service.

A spokesperson for the THB said that the "Sea Express" water transportation service from the Mainland to Hong Kong has been fully launched and its capacity is rising to increase the supplies of fresh food, other daily necessities and manufacturing materials. The current supply of fresh

food from the Mainland is stable.

Currently, there are three water transportation routes between Hong Kong and Shenzhen, namely (1) from Shenzhen Yantian International Container Terminals to Hong Kong Kwai Tsing Container Terminals (KTCT); (2) from Shenzhen DaChan Bay Terminals to KTCT; and (3) from China Merchants Port (South China) Management Center (Shenzhen Mawan, Shekou and Chiwan Container Terminals) to Hong Kong River Trade Terminal and elsewhere. Together with the water transportation routes from other cities in Guangdong Province, including the routes from Guangzhou Lianhuashan Port, Nansha Port, Huadu Port, Zhongshan Huangpu Port and Zhuhai Doumen Port to different terminals in Hong Kong, the water transport capacity amounts to tens of thousands of tonnes daily.

The spokesperson said today (May 24) that Shenzhen operated 46 cargo vessel trips and transported around 4 680 twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs) of cross-boundary supplies by water yesterday (May 23), equivalent to about 20 910 tonnes of goods, of which around 10 TEUs (about 40 tonnes) were fresh food and around 4 670 TEUs (about 20 870 tonnes) were non-fresh food, according to information from the Mainland authorities.

Since the launch of services from the three ports in Shenzhen since February 18 to yesterday, a total of around 412 290 TEUs of cross-boundary supplies have been transported, equivalent to about 2 079 010 tonnes of goods, of which around 1 760 TEUs (about 15 020 tonnes) were fresh food and around 410 530 TEUs (about 2 063 990 tonnes) were non-fresh food.

To further ensure a stable goods supply to Hong Kong through land transport, a trial run of cargo transfer was conducted by the THB at a yard situated on Kam Pok Road, San Tin, Yuen Long, and it was completed smoothly. The THB will continue to work with the Mainland authorities to fully take forward cargo transfer arrangements on the Hong Kong side. It is a contingency measure in response to the latest epidemic situation in the city so as to reduce the risk of epidemic transmission in both the Mainland and Hong Kong, ensuring both smooth cross-boundary land transport and a stable goods supply to Hong Kong.

Meanwhile, to avoid a spillover of the epidemic, the Transport Department (TD) has arranged for dedicated staff to conduct rapid antigen tests for cross-boundary goods vehicle drivers at various land boundary control points (BCPs) from February 28 onwards. Only drivers with a negative result are allowed to enter the Mainland. In order to further improve the accuracy of the tests, the TD has already switched to use rapid nucleic acid tests at the BCPs. Starting from April 21, the sampling method for rapid nucleic acid tests has been further changed to nasopharyngeal swabs. A total of 2 991 rapid nucleic acid tests were conducted yesterday in which 23 drivers preliminarily tested positive. The TD has passed the cases to the Department of Health for follow-up.

The THB will closely monitor the situation and co-operate with the Mainland authorities to facilitate and implement various measures to ensure a stable goods supply to Hong Kong, with a view to complementing the supply

through road, water and railway transport, enhancing capacity and efficiency as well as optimising the flow of cross-boundary supplies.

[Hong Kong and UAE organise joint webinar to enhance collaboration \(with photos\)](#)

The Commerce and Economic Development Bureau and the Ministry of Economy of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) jointly organised a webinar titled "Hong Kong-UAE Partnership: Immense Opportunities" today (May 24) to explore collaboration opportunities in such fields as trade, investment and professional services. The webinar attracted some 400 sign-ups.

The Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development, Mr Edward Yau, addressed the opening session, followed by responding remarks by the Minister of State for Foreign Trade of the Ministry of Economy of the UAE, Dr Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi.

Mr Yau underlined Hong Kong's close economic and trade partnership with the UAE, noting that the UAE is Hong Kong's largest trading partner in the Middle East. Following the signing of the Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement in June 2019 and the formal opening of the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Dubai in October 2021, the mutual collaboration between the two places has reached new heights.

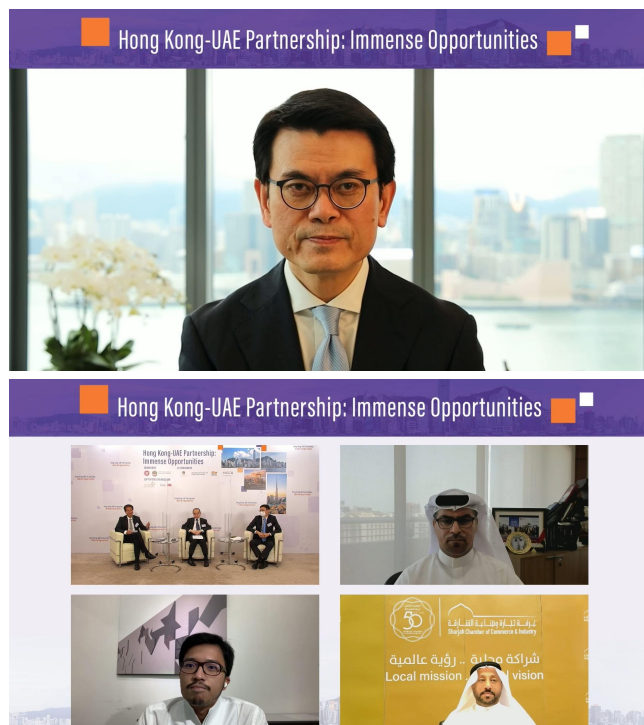
Mr Yau encouraged enterprises of the UAE and member states of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf to leverage Hong Kong's role as a two-way connector to capitalise on the opportunities brought by the Belt and Road Initiative. Businesses can also make use of the Mainland and Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement as well as the Free Trade Agreement between Hong Kong and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations as springboards to tap into these markets, in particular the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area.

In addition to trade collaboration, Mr Yau said that there was plenty of room for enhanced co-operation in the area of professional services. He highlighted the benefits that Hong Kong's professional services could bring to the UAE's infrastructure and investment projects.

The webinar featured a panel discussion session moderated by the Commissioner for Belt and Road, Mr Rex Chang, which centred around opportunities for collaboration in the post-COVID time. Panelists from both places shared their insights on how the two places could join hands to enhance collaboration and seize the immense opportunities in trade,

investment, professional services, as well as innovation and technology. The panelists included the Co-convenor of the Belt and Road Working Group of the Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce, Mr Nicholas Ho; the Chairman of the Hong Kong Law Foundation, Mr Larry Kwok; Deputy Executive Director of the Hong Kong Trade Development Council Dr Patrick Lau; the Chief Executive Officer of the Dubai Investment Development Agency, Mr Fahad Al Gergawi; and the Chairman of the Sharjah Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Mr Abdullah Sultan Al Owais. The webinar was concluded by the Acting Consul-General of the UAE in Hong Kong, Sheikh Saoud Al Mualla.

The webinar today was the first government-to-government webinar that the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region has organised jointly with a trading partner in the Middle East, and the seventh one since the webinar series commenced in mid-2020.



[Appeal for information on missing girl in Hung Hom \(with photo\)](#)

Police today (May 24) appealed to the public for information on a girl who went missing in Hung Hom.

Chau Hau-yau Ellie, aged 15, went missing after she left her residence at Hung Hom Estate on May 22. Her family made a report to Police on the next day.

She is about 1.6 metres tall, 42 kilograms in weight and of medium

build. She has a long face with yellow complexion and long straight black hair. She was last seen wearing a black dress, white sneakers, a black cap and a pair of dark-coloured glasses.

Anyone who knows the whereabouts of the missing girl or may have seen her is urged to contact the Regional Missing Person Unit of Kowloon West on 3661 8038, 9020 6542 or email to rmpu-kw-2@police.gov.hk, or contact any police station.

