

CS visits OGCI0's monitoring centre in North Point

The Chief Secretary for Administration, Mr Matthew Cheung Kin-chung, this afternoon (March 20) visited the monitoring centre of the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer (OGCIO) at Customs Headquarters Building in North Point to observe its operation and expressed his support for the staff and volunteers at the centre. The monitoring centres are established to monitor the persons under compulsory quarantine are staying at their dwelling places.

Accompanied by the Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Hermes Tang, and the Deputy Government Chief Information Officer, Mr Tony Wong, Mr Cheung met with staff to observe how the monitoring centre could cope with the upsurge of workload in the past few weeks and how the new "StayHomeSafe" mobile app could strengthen the monitoring work.

At present, OGCI0 has set up three monitoring centres where location-sharing functions of communication software, video calls, electronic wristbands and the new "StayHomeSafe" mobile app are used to ensure that persons undergoing quarantine are staying at their dwelling places.

"StayHomeSafe" mobile app was developed jointly by a local start-up at the Hong Kong Science Park and a local university. It has been in use since last Monday (March 9). The mobile app makes use of artificial intelligence and big data to analyse changes of communication signals in the open environment to ascertain whether persons who are subject to compulsory quarantine are staying at their dwelling places.

Mr Cheung was pleased to note that the "StayHomeSafe" mobile app could help further improve the operation of the home quarantine measure and thanked staff and volunteers of the monitoring centre for their relentless effort in protecting the well-being of the general public. They have contributed positively to the implementation of the home quarantine measure by ensuring persons under compulsory quarantine are staying at their dwelling places, and at the same time help explain to them quarantine arrangements and handle relevant enquiries.

He was also delighted to learn that OGCI0 has mobilised over 200 volunteers, including retired civil servants, to join the work of all monitoring centres to alleviate the work pressure of centre staff. He expressed his deepest gratitude to the volunteers for their dedication to safeguarding Hong Kong people's health.

Mr Cheung called on those under home quarantine to abide strictly by the quarantine requirement in order to reduce the risk of virus transmission. He stressed that with the concerted efforts of the Government and the public, Hong Kong would win this battle against the epidemic.