

CSD further suspends social visits to persons in custody in light of epidemic development

â€œGiven the fact that the local epidemic situation remains severe and in view of the emergence of positive COVID-19 cases at several correctional institutions, it is necessary for the Correctional Services Department (CSD) to continue the implementation of emergency measures to substantially reduce the flow of people and social contacts so as to curb large-scale outbreaks at correctional institutions caused by the introduction of the virus. The CSD has today (February 10) decided to further suspend social visits to persons in custody (PICs) until February 23, 2022.

Should the social visits be able to resume on February 24, adjustments will be made on the number of visitors: (i) only one visitor will be allowed to visit remand PICs; and (ii) the maximum number of visitors for convicted PICs will be limited to two. The CSD will monitor the development of the epidemic and review the arrangement before February 23. Please pay attention to the announcement by the CSD and the departmental website. In case of emergencies, please call the staff of the Rehabilitation Unit of respective correctional institutions for follow-up.

Moreover, the CSD has all along ensured the provision of basic necessities to all PICs. In consideration of individual needs of PICs, every PIC will be allowed to receive approved hand-in articles once between February 14 and February 23. For the types and maximum quantities of the approved hand-in articles, please refer to the CSD website. All visitors are required to show at least one dose of COVID-19 on their vaccination record (save for exempted person) and to use the "LeaveHomeSafe" mobile app prior to their entry to correctional institutions for handing in the articles.