

Government strongly condemns blatant violation of prohibition on group gathering regulation

A Government spokesman has strongly condemned the selfish and illegal acts of some disorderly members of the public who gathered inside a mall in Yuen Long this evening (July 21), gravely increasing the risk of spreading the virus. They are suspected of having breached the Prevention and Control of Disease (Prohibition on Group Gathering) Regulation (Cap. 599G).

The spokesman said that there has been a drastic change in the COVID-19 epidemic situation in Hong Kong recently, with more than 2 000 confirmed cases now recorded. During such difficult times, community solidarity in fighting against the disease is of utmost importance to safeguard the safety of members of the public and their family members.

In view of the severity of the epidemic situation, the spokesman strongly urged members of the public to stay at home as much as possible, reduce social contact and avoid dining out. Any group gathering may increase the risk of the spread of the virus, and the Police will take resolute enforcement action.

The current prohibition on group gathering regulation prohibits group gatherings of more than four people in public places. Any person who participates in a prohibited group gathering; organises a prohibited group gathering; owns, controls or operates the place of such a gathering; and knowingly allows such a gathering to take place commits an offence. Offenders are liable to a maximum penalty of a fine of \$25,000 and imprisonment for six months.