

# Government to resume normal public services

In view of the latest developments of the epidemic situation, a Government spokesman announced today (February 10) that government departments will fully resume normal public services from February 18.

"In light of the gradual stabilisation of the epidemic situation and taking into account the needs for the functioning of society and the economy, government departments will resume normal public services. As individual bureaux and departments may require more time to carry out necessary manpower deployment and procure supplies, or need to comply with the Prevention and Control of Disease Ordinance (Cap. 599) or its regulations, some of their services may be resumed at a later time. They will make announcements of their latest service arrangements separately," the spokesman said.

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"In view of the need to reduce flows of people and social contact, bureaux and departments will continue to implement targeted measures while resuming public services, such as staggering of work and lunch hours and using video conferencing to reduce the need for holding face-to-face meetings. As there may be a higher demand for various public services at the beginning of service resumption, the waiting time for public services may be lengthened, or a longer time may be needed for the processing of applications. We appeal for the understanding of members of the public."

The spokesman appealed to the public to continue to use alternative means, such as post, drop-in boxes or online channels, to receive the services they need. Meanwhile, if members of the public have to visit government buildings or offices, they should wear surgical masks at all times, and comply with the infection control measures implemented by relevant departments including temperature checks, using the "LeaveHomeSafe" mobile app and crowd control arrangements.