

“LeaveHomeSafe” mobile app pilot scheme runs smoothly at government buildings on first day

To better assist the Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health (DH) in epidemiological investigations and to further protect the health and safety of government employees and members of the public using public services, the Government launched a pilot scheme starting today (February 4), under which government employees and members of the public are reminded to use the "LeaveHomeSafe" mobile app at the entrances of government buildings or offices. The first phase of the pilot scheme covers the Central Government Offices and Tai Po Government Offices. The first day of operation was generally smooth. The Government would like to thank members of the public and employees for their co-operation on the relevant arrangements.

Using the "LeaveHomeSafe" mobile app achieves three purposes:

- i. it allows members of the public to record the time of visits to different venues;
- ii. in the unfortunate event of infection of COVID-19 by the user, visit records stored in the mobile app can assist the CHP of the DH in epidemiological investigations and trace other close contacts; and
- iii. users will be notified by the mobile app if they are later identified to have visited the same venue that a confirmed patient has visited at about the same time, so as to increase the users' vigilance and sense of self-protection.

Throughout the implementation of the pilot scheme, temporary service stations are set up at relevant government buildings to assist people in need to install the mobile app on the spot. Through the pilot scheme, the Government hopes to further encourage government employees and members of the public to establish a habit of recording their whereabouts during the fight against the epidemic. Phase two of the pilot scheme will commence on February 16, covering the Harbour Building, Mong Kok Government Offices and Tuen Mun Government Offices.

The Government will progressively extend the usage of the "LeaveHomeSafe" mobile app to more government buildings and offices, and has requested relevant government departments to take forward the preparatory work. Details will be announced in due course. The Government appeals to the public to fight the epidemic together and follow instructions on site. Members of the public are also encouraged to download the "LeaveHomeSafe" mobile app as soon as possible and use it frequently, so as to maximise the function of the mobile app.