

Man sentenced for breaching compulsory quarantine order

A 60-year-old man was sentenced to imprisonment for eight days suspended for 12 months and fined \$2,500 by the Kowloon City Magistrates' Courts today (April 22) for violating the Compulsory Quarantine of Certain Persons Arriving at Hong Kong Regulation (Cap. 599C) and Prevention and Control of Disease Ordinance (Cap. 599).

The man was earlier issued a compulsory quarantine order stating that he must conduct quarantine at home for 14 days. Before the expiry of the quarantine order, he left the place of quarantine on September 5, 2021, without reasonable excuse nor permission given by an authorised officer. Moreover, he caused obstruction to a public officer in the performance of relevant function on September 6, 2021. He was charged with contravening sections 8(1) and 8(5) of the Regulation and sections 11(1) and 11(2) of the Ordinance. He was sentenced today to imprisonment for eight days suspended for 12 months and was fined a total of \$2,500.

Breaching a compulsory quarantine order is a criminal offence and offenders are subject to a maximum fine of \$25,000 and imprisonment for six months. A spokesman for the Department of Health said the sentence sends a clear message to the community that breaching a quarantine order is a criminal offence that the Government will not tolerate, and solemnly reminded the public to comply with the regulations. As of today, a total of 223 persons have been convicted by the courts for breaching quarantine orders and have received sentences including immediate imprisonment for up to 14 weeks or a fine of up to \$15,000. The spokesman reiterated that resolute actions will be taken against anyone who has breached the relevant regulations.