

New call-up programme for Hong Kong residents born in 1957 to 1963 and 1970 to 1976 to apply for new smart identity cards

The Immigration Department (ImmD) announced today (May 6) that in light of the more stabilised epidemic situation, the operation of all nine Smart Identity Card Replacement Centres (SIDCCs) (at Annex I) under the Territory-wide Identity Card Replacement Exercise (Replacement Exercise) will be fully resumed from May 11, 2020.

To avoid the increased risk of the spread of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) due to excessive crowding, the ImmD earlier suspended the replacement of Hong Kong identity cards (HKICs) at nine SIDCCs under the Replacement Exercise. To arrange for those persons affected by the service suspension to replace their HKICs in an orderly manner, the Secretary for Security has made an Amendment Order to revise the specified periods for persons born in 1957 to 1963 and 1970 to 1976, and the arrangement for members of the sixth term of District Councils, which are as follows:

Eligible persons	Revised application period
Holders of existing HKICs born in 1957, 1958 or 1959	November 16, 2019 – July 27, 2020
Holders of existing HKICs born in 1960 or 1961, and members of the sixth term of District Councils	February 18 – July 27, 2020
Holders of existing HKICs born in 1962 or 1963	July 28 – September 22, 2020
Holders of existing HKICs born in 1970, 1971 or 1972	September 23 – December 7, 2020
Holders of existing HKICs born in 1973 or 1974	December 8, 2020 – January 28, 2021
Holders of existing HKICs born in 1975 or 1976	January 29 – March 19, 2021

In consideration of the possibility that the replacement of HKICs may need to be suspended again in the near future to cope with a sudden turn of

the epidemic situation, the Amendment Order also provides that if all SIDCCs are not in service for a period of 21 working days or more from May 11 to July 27, 2020, for public health reasons, the specified periods of the abovementioned persons will be further extended or amended (at Annex II). The Amendment Order will be tabled at the Legislative Council on May 13, 2020, for negative vetting.

An ImmD spokesman said, "If the call-up programme has to be further adjusted for public health reasons, the ImmD will make announcement in advance as far as possible through various channels to inform the public of the latest arrangement.

"To reduce crowd gatherings, applicants who have not made appointment bookings previously should do so via the Internet (www.gov.hk/newicbooking), the ImmD mobile application or the 24-hour telephone booking hotline 2121 1234. The ImmD also appeals to applicants to pre-fill the application form when making appointment bookings through the Internet or mobile application to save the waiting time," the ImmD spokesman said.

For details of the replacement exercise, please visit the website www.smartid.gov.hk or call the ImmD's enquiry hotline at 2824 6111.