

Two persons sentenced for breaching compulsory quarantine order

Two men were sentenced to immediate imprisonment for four weeks respectively by the Kwun Tong Magistrates' Courts today (July 6) for violating the Compulsory Quarantine of Certain Persons Arriving at Hong Kong Regulation (Cap. 599C).

The first case involves a man aged 34, who was earlier issued a compulsory quarantine order stating that he must conduct quarantine at home for 14 days. He was intercepted by a police officer at MTR North Point Station on April 7 and was found to have left the place of quarantine without reasonable excuse nor permission given by an authorised officer before the expiry of the quarantine order. The second case involves a 24-year-old man, who was earlier issued a compulsory quarantine order stating that he must conduct quarantine at home for 14 days. When the Police were deployed to handle a traffic accident on April 26, the man, who was involved in the traffic accident, was found to have left the place of quarantine without reasonable excuse nor permission given by an authorised officer before the expiry of the quarantine order. They were charged with contravening sections 8(1) and 8(5) of the Regulation and were sentenced by the Kwun Tong Magistrates' Courts today to immediate imprisonment for four weeks respectively.

Pursuant to the Regulation, save for exempted persons, all persons who have stayed in the Mainland, Macao or Taiwan in the 14 days preceding arrival in Hong Kong, regardless of their nationality or travel documents, will be subject to compulsory quarantine for 14 days. Moreover, pursuant to the Compulsory Quarantine of Persons Arriving at Hong Kong from Foreign Places Regulation (Cap. 599E), starting from March 19, all persons arriving from countries or territories outside China would also be subject to compulsory quarantine for 14 days. Breaching a quarantine order is a criminal offence and offenders are subject to a maximum fine of \$25,000 and imprisonment for six months. The Department of Health (DH) solemnly reminds persons under quarantine to comply with the statutory requirements and conduct quarantine for 14 days.

A spokesman for the DH said the sentence sends a clear message to the community that breaching the Regulation is a criminal offence and that the Government will not tolerate such actions. As of today, a total of 28 persons have been convicted by the courts with imprisonment sentences of up to three months or a fine of \$10,000. The spokesman reiterated that resolute actions will be taken against anyone who has breached the Regulation.