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All non-Hong Kong residents coming from overseas countries and regions by plane will be denied entry to Hong Kong, effective March 25

To further prevent imported cases and cut the global and local virus transmission chain as far as possible, the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government will implement the following measures with effect from 00.00am on March 25 (Hong Kong time), tentatively for 14 days:

- All non-Hong Kong residents coming from overseas countries and regions by plane will be denied entry to Hong Kong;
- Non-Hong Kong residents coming from the Mainland, Macao and Taiwan will be denied entry to Hong Kong if they have been to any overseas countries and regions in the past 14 days;
- All transit services at Hong Kong International Airport will be suspended; and
- All travelers coming from Macao and Taiwan, including Hong Kong and non-Hong Kong residents, will be subject to a 14-day compulsory quarantine, which is the same as the arrangements for people entering Hong Kong from the Mainland.

Taking into consideration the practical situation, a small number of persons can be exempted from the above immigration restrictions and quarantine requirements, including:

- Macao residents who are registered under the Macao scheme under agreement between the Macao Special Administrative Region Government and the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government that they will be immediately taken by coach back to Macao upon entry;
- Crew members of aircraft who need to commute to and from foreign places for performance of necessary duties or crew members of government vessels;
- Government officials carrying out government duties including personnel of consular posts;
- Spouses and minor children of Hong Kong residents; and
- Personnel engaged in anti-epidemic work endorsed by the HKSAR Government.

The Immigration Department will handle each case in accordance with immigration policy, the actual situation and established procedures.

Early Identification of asymptomatic inbound travelers

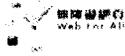
The Government will expand its current practice of random virus testing against asymptomatic inbound travelers by mandating that all arriving persons from the United States, the United Kingdom, and other countries in Europe must have virus tests with an aim of identifying infected asymptomatic cases as early as possible. The relevant travelers will be given a specimen container on arrival and will each be required to collect their deep throat saliva sample at a specific time and deliver it to one of the designated clinics as instructed by the Department of Health. If the sample tests positive, the Department of Health will arrange for the person to be admitted to hospital for isolation and treatment immediately. If the test result is negative, the person concerned will still be required to complete the 14-day home quarantine.

Stringent enforcement actions to combat breaches of quarantine orders

The law enforcement agencies will enhance enforcement and strictly combat offenders breaching quarantine orders, including setting up a hotline as soon as possible for members of the public to report such cases to enhance the effectiveness of law enforcement.

The Government once again reminds all persons under compulsory quarantine to strictly comply with the quarantine order and not to defy the law.

As the situation continues to evolve rapidly, the HKSAR Government will continue to make prompt responses to roll out measures. We will keep you posted of the latest developments.



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