民政事務總署 牌照事務處 香港太古城太古灣道十四號十樓



HOME AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT

OFFICE OF THE LICENSING AUTHORITY 10<sup>th</sup> Floor, 14 Taikoo Wan Road Taikoo Shing Hong Kong

本署檔號 Our Ref. HAD/LA/15/2-80/2C 電 話 Tel.: 2881 7498 傳 真 Fax: 2894 8343

29 August 2022

To: All Club Certificate of Compliance Holders or Responsible Persons All Hotel / Guesthouse Licensees or Responsible Persons

Dear Sir/Madam,

## Catering Premises and Scheduled Premises should comply with the latest social distancing measures

Given the gradual deterioration of recent epidemic situation, the Government announced the gazettal under the Prevention and Control of Disease (Requirements and Directions)(Business and Premises) Regulation to implement social distancing measures with effective from 28 August 2022 at catering premises and scheduled premises (including hotels, guesthouses, club-houses, etc.). The main points are as below –

## **Customers Entering Catering Premises**

2. Customers entering catering premises to participate in a banquet activity shall undergo a rapid antigen test (RAT) for coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) conducted within the preceding 24 hours and present the negative result. The relevant customer shall mark on the RAT testing kit his/her name as well as the date and time of taking the test. He/she shall take a photo of the testing kit and save it in his/her mobile phone for checking by the operators before entering the premises, and for inspection by authorised officers upon request. If the customer possesses a SMS notification (mobile phone text message) containing the result of a PCR test, the result of which is negative, and the SMS was issued within the 48 hours preceding his/her entry into the catering premises, then he/she would be taken to have complied with the requirements pertaining to undergoing the RAT. For anti-epidemic consideration, customers **shall not** present his/her physical RAT testing kit and **shall not** conduct any RAT testing at any public areas inside/outside the premises concerned.

3. As regards the meaning of "banquet", it refers to a situation with customers exceeding the number allowed to be seated together at one table (the existing requirement is not exceeding eight customers) and dining together at the catering premises with a common purpose. For illustration, the requirements pertaining to undergoing the RAT does not apply to eight customers dining together at two tables, but apply to nine customers dining together at two tables. 4. The Government will allow an adaptation period of seven days (until September 3) for the operators of catering premises to get used to the relevant requirements and make preparation.

## **Staff Members of Scheduled Premises**

5. The responsible person of the premises shall arrange all staff members involved in the operation of the business on the premises to undergo a RAT once every three days before entry into the premises (in other words, a staff member must, on the day when he/she enters the premises for work (relevant work day), hold a RAT result obtained on the relevant work day or on any of the two days immediately preceding the relevant work day) and keep record of each RAT result for three day.

6. A staff member involved in the operation of the business on the premises must produce a photo showing the RAT-negative testing kit, on which the name of the staff member and the day of taking the RAT are marked, obtained on the relevant work day or on any of the two days immediately preceding the relevant work day, upon being asked by an enforcement officer inside the premises on the relevant work day.

## Reference

7. For details of the above requirements applicable to catering premises and scheduled premises, please refer to Government Notice (GN) 802 of  $2022^1$  and GN 803 of  $2022^2$  respectively.

8. In addition, the Food and Environemental Hygiene Department has updated the FAQs at its designated webpage on "Vaccine Pass" for reference by the responsible persons of premises, staff members and customers. The webpage is available at the following link: www.fehd.gov.hk/tc\_chi/events/covid19/vaccine\_bubble\_faq.html

9. To minimise the risk of COVID-19 transmission and epidemic rebound, all sectors of the community shall stay vigilant and comply with the relevant regulations on prevention and control of disease in a concerted and persistent manner. The Office of the Licensing Authority of the Home Affairs Department has strengthened the publicity efforts and will continue to take stringent enforcement actions. All sectors are reminded to co-operate with us to fight the virus together.

Yours faithfully,

(signed) (Robin LEUNG) Chief Officer (Licensing Authority) Office of the Licensing Authority

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> GN 802 of 2022 is accessible at <u>www.gld.gov.hk/egazette/pdf/202226294e/egn202226294802.pdf</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> GN 803 of 2022 is accessible at www.gld.gov.hk/egazette/pdf/202226294e/egn202226294803.pdf