

Latest Quarantine Arrangement for Inbound Persons from Overseas or Taiwan and Enhanced Vaccine Pass Function

Speaking Points

- Introducing two new measures: 1. Shortening hotel quarantine¹ period to 3 nights, followed by 4 nights of medical surveillance; 2. Introducing the Red and Amber Code system with a view to controlling and monitoring in a targeted manner the premises that restricted persons are not allowed to enter.
- The two measures fully demonstrate the SAR Government's policy of targeted anti-epidemic efforts with a view to achieving the greatest anti-epidemic effect with the least economic impact.
- With reference to the risk of virus transmission of inbound persons, through faster, more precise and scientific anti-epidemic measures, the number of restricted persons and the degree of restriction would be minimised. This is a big step towards the resumption of normal inbound air travel, which would help attract tourists to Hong Kong and facilitate the essential travel of citizens, as well as reinject momentum into industries such as aviation, exhibition and commercial services.
- We will continue to maintain the strategy of guarding against the importation of cases and upholding the principles of making targeted anti-epidemic efforts on a scientific basis, properly managing importation risks and providing convenience to citizens.
- Relevant data show that there are about 4 confirmed cases among every 100 inbound persons. Therefore, under the new measure, hotel quarantine of 3 nights with two nucleic acid tests can detect more than 3 confirmed cases. Fewer than 1 remaining case would be discovered after the traveller leaving quarantine hotel and entering the community under the "medical surveillance" measure. However, under the new arrangement, he or she will be restricted from entering high-risk premises by the Amber Code. This risk level is similar to the current positive rate in the local community (Note: The positive rate in community testing centres/mobile testing stations is about 1.5%), and is lower than the positive rate of local close contacts subject to home quarantine (Note: The positive rate of home quarantine is over 18%, with a rate of over 7% by Day 3).
- Requiring around 95% of uninfected inbound persons to undergo a longer period of hotel quarantine in order to stop the less than 1% confirmed cases from entering the community is not cost effective, and is not targeted. It also affects the competitiveness of Hong Kong as an international financial and commercial centre.
- Meanwhile, the system of Red and Amber Code will be introduced under "Vaccine Pass". Confirmed cases are issued the Red Code with a view to preventing them from leaving

¹ Required to be conducted at designated quarantine hotels

designated isolation locations. Inbound persons are issued the Amber Code during the period of medical surveillance after completing hotel quarantine. They are allowed to carry out low-risk daily activities, such as taking public transport to go to work, entering shopping malls, department stores and markets to buy daily necessities, etc. However, they will not be allowed to enter premises with higher risks, such as catering premises, thus significantly lowering the risk of the virus entering the community.

- Compared to the 7-night hotel quarantine requirement, measures such as using the Amber Code to prevent inbound persons from entering high-risk premises, along with multiple nucleic acid tests² and daily rapid antigen tests (until Day 10) can better cater for the needs of most inbound persons, especially those conducting business activities, as well as control the risk of community transmission caused by imported cases.
- Implementing the Red and Amber Code system and shortening the period of hotel quarantine for inbound persons demonstrate our targeted anti-epidemic efforts and are in line with the actual situation in Hong Kong, balancing the anti-epidemic and economic needs.
- The updated “LeaveHomeSafe”, same as its previous versions, does not have a registration procedure or tracking function. Except for confirmed cases and inbound persons, ordinary citizens may continue to use the current version of “LeaveHomeSafe” and the blue Vaccine Pass to enter premises and are not affected by the new measure.

Reference Information

- a. Inbound persons from overseas or Taiwan are currently required to undergo quarantine for 7 nights in designated quarantine hotels. The new measure will amend the arrangement to “3 + 4”, i.e. after travellers arrive in Hong Kong by air, their original quarantine period at designated quarantine hotels of at least 7 nights will be revised to 3 nights at designated quarantine hotels followed by 4 nights of medical surveillance at home or ordinary hotels.
- b. The system record of Red and Amber Code will be regularly updated. The “LeaveHomeSafe” application will automatically correspond with the system through internet connection, and change the colour of the Vaccine Pass in accordance with system record in real time.
- c. Persons who do not have smart mobile phones may continue to use the paper form of Vaccine Pass. The QR Code Verification Scanner of different premises will recognise the colour of the Vaccine Pass to help with identification by the person-in-charge of premises.
- d. After completing isolation or medical surveillance, the Vaccine Pass will revert to blue.

² Including Day 0 (i.e. conducted at the airport on the day of arrival), Day 2 (conducted at quarantine hotels), Day 4, Day 6, Day 9 (conducted at community testing centres/mobile specimen collection stations/recognised private laboratories)

e. Persons under Amber Code may not enter* -

Premises required to use the QR Code Verification Scanner:

Catering premises (including bars or pubs), amusement game centres, bathhouses, fitness centres, places of amusement, indoor places of public entertainment, party rooms, beauty parlours, club houses, clubs or nightclubs, karaoke establishments, mahjong-tin kau premises, massage establishments, indoor sports premises, swimming pools, cruise ships, indoor event premises, barber shops or hair salons and religious premises.

Premises required to inspect the Vaccine Pass visually as far as feasible:

Outdoor places of public entertainment, outdoor sports premises and outdoor event premises.

Premises subject to administrative instructions of Vaccine Pass:

Residential care homes for the elderly, residential care homes for persons with disabilities, schools, designated healthcare premises.

* Students going to school, and people going to work or seeking medical consultation may enter, while visitors or customers are not allowed.

f. Persons under Red Code may not enter -

All the above premises in item (e), hotels or guesthouses (except persons who are required to undergo isolation at relevant hotels or guesthouses in accordance with their isolation orders), and premises subject to passive checking of Vaccine Pass: shopping malls, department stores, markets and supermarkets.

Health Bureau

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