

本署檔號 Our Ref. : DH HQTF No. 3/2021
來函檔號 Your Ref :
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4 June 2021

Dr Simon WANG
Lecturer in English Language Centre,
Hong Kong Baptist University,
Kowloon Tong, Hong Kong

Dear Dr WANG,

Code on Access to information
Re : DH HQTF No. 3/2021

Thank you for your application dated 21 May 2021 to Food and Health Bureau seeking access to information relating to approval for temporarily leaving quarantine places on compassionate grounds. Your request has been referred to Department of Health (DH) on 28 May 2021.

Please note our reply on your questions as follows:

Question 1

Under what circumstances, if any, will HK residents or visitors subject to quarantine requirements be exempted from such requirements on humanitarian or compassionate grounds?



衛生防護中心乃衛生署
轄下執行疾病預防
及控制的專業架構
The Centre for Health
Protection is a
professional arm of the
Department of Health for
disease prevention and
control

The Government has adjusted the boarding, quarantine and testing arrangements for persons arriving at Hong Kong (including Hong Kong residents returning to Hong Kong) who have completed their COVID-19 vaccination course under the "vaccine bubble" concept. For the latest boarding, compulsory quarantine, and testing requirements for persons arriving at Hong Kong from different places outside China under the "vaccine bubble" arrangement, please refer to the COVID-19 Thematic website (<https://www.coronavirus.gov.hk/eng/high-risk-places.html>).

Persons put under compulsory quarantine are required to comply with the compulsory quarantine and testing requirements. Unless with the permission of an authorized officer, confinees must stay at the place of quarantine and are prohibited from leaving Hong Kong.

In very limited circumstances, permission for confinees to temporary leave the quarantine place may be granted by an authorised officer of DH to visit a relative who is critically ill or attend a funeral of relative (for funeral arranged at funeral home or cemetery only). Supporting documents, including but not limited to, relationship proof, hospital letter of patient's latest condition, death certificate, etc. are required to support these kinds of requests. In assessing the request, consideration will be given to the public health risk, and if visiting a facility, the applicant should have sought the approval of the receiving facility (i.e. hospital or funeral home, etc.) beforehand. For crematoria managed by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD), prior agreement of FEHD is not required but the application is still subject to DH's approval. Such applications should be submitted after confinees' arrival in Hong Kong.

When DH receives an application and relevant proof from the confinee who wants to temporarily leave the quarantine place to attend the funeral of his/her relatives, DH will contact the relevant funeral home to confirm that they approve the visit by the confinee. It is understood that funeral homes will also assess the potential risks of visits by people under quarantine in view of the latest development of the pandemic.

Question 2

Did the bureau receive any applications for such exemptions mentioned in Q.1?

Yes. DH has received applications from confinees for temporary leaving the quarantine place to visit a relative who is critically ill or attend a funeral of relative.

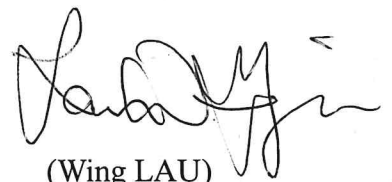
Question 3

How would the bureau consider and process such cases should they arise?

Please refer to the reply on Question 1 above.

If we can be of any assistance in the provision of other information in the future, please do not hesitate to contact us again.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Wing LAU', with a stylized flourish at the end.

(Wing LAU)
for Director of Health