

(By e-mail)

New York Times

Dear Editor,

We refer to the articles entitled “Why China May Call the World’s Bluff on Hong Kong” and "For Hong Kong, Tiananmen looms over the future" published online today (June 4).

Given the severe experience with the community spread of COVID-19 in the US, UK and parts of Europe, it is very disappointing that the New York Times has ignored the success of Hong Kong’s containment efforts to take a cheap shot.

Restrictions on public gatherings in Hong Kong have been in place for more than two months and their need is reviewed in light of the actual situation, in particular whether there are any cases of community transmission. In recent days we have seen a new community cluster with some, as yet, unexplained transmission vectors. This is a legitimate concern. Based on our experience containing the virus, the only prudent course is to extend restrictions on public gatherings until we are confident this latest cluster is under control and we can understand how and why it has spread. The decision has nothing to do with any political considerations, just the public health of our people. To throw caution to the wind to allow any large public gathering at this time would be reckless.

Yours sincerely,

Professor Sophia Chan  
Secretary for Food and Health