

March 23, 2021

The Editor  
New York Times

Dear Editor,

Your article “Hong Kong’s virus rules keep cases low but stoke complaints” (March 17), highlights the challenges of tackling the Covid-19 pandemic.

On the testing, quarantine and isolation orders in Hong Kong, I wish make the following points:

First, the HKSAR Government does not target any specific sectors of the community for testing, quarantine or isolation. Everybody is treated equal before the law and in terms of our epidemic control measures.

Second, we fully understand the special needs of young children. If they or their family members are diagnosed with Covid-19, compassionate measures may be considered with decisions always made in the best interests of the families.

Third, if anyone in quarantine or isolation has any questions, requests or suggestions, we have an established procedure in place to ensure this can happen and that people’s needs can be met as far as practicable and possible.

Since the beginning of the epidemic, the HKSAR Government has put in place stringent preventive and control measures to contain the virus and protect the health of the public. In addition to border control measures, we have been stepping up testing efforts, including exercising statutory powers to mandate citizens to undergo testing; arranging isolation of people tested positive at public hospitals and quarantine of their close contacts at our quarantine centres / designated hotels; and implementing social distancing measures. As we are combating an unprecedented global pandemic, we seek our citizens’ endurance and ongoing concerted efforts to overcome this challenge. The HKSAR Government will

continue to be open and transparent about its anti-epidemic measures and place the health of our community as a top priority.

Yours sincerely,

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Secretary for Food and Health  
Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government