

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)185

(Question Serial No. 1791)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Diane WONG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Has the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) enhanced cleansing service across the territory in 2020-21 in the light of the COVID-19 epidemic? If yes, what are the details and the expenditure involved? If no, what is/are the reason(s)?

Will the Department enhance cleansing service across the territory in 2021-22 in the light of the COVID-19 epidemic? If yes, what are the details? If no, what is/are the reason(s)?

Asked by: Hon WONG Ting-kwong (LegCo internal reference no.: 54)

Reply:

In the light of the COVID-19 epidemic, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) has stepped up cleansing of public facilities under its management, including public markets, cooked food centres, hawker bazaars, public toilets and refuse collection points (RCPs).

For public toilets with attendant service, FEHD has instructed toilet attendants on duty to cleanse and disinfect the floor, water closets, urinals, wash hand basins, toilet seats, door handles, handrails, etc. every 2 hours with diluted bleach. For other public toilets, cleansing workers also carry out cleansing and disinfection with diluted bleach at least twice a day in performing routine cleansing service to ensure their cleanliness. In performing routine cleansing of RCPs, cleansing workers will also cleanse and disinfect the floor, walls, large refuse bins, handrails, etc. with diluted bleach to ensure the cleanliness of RCPs.

With regard to public markets, in addition to routine cleansing service in the daytime, market management contractors also perform deep cleansing service after the markets are closed every day. Under the epidemic, FEHD has improved the ventilation of public markets and stepped up cleansing and disinfection of the streets in their vicinities as well as their common areas and facilities (including toilets, escalators, elevators, stair handrails, etc.). As a precautionary measure, over 60 public markets were arranged to be progressively closed an hour earlier for deep cleansing and disinfection. Market tenants were appealed to conduct cleansing and disinfection at their stalls, with a view to improving

the overall hygiene condition of the markets. Recently, FEHD has made it a regular measure for a number of public markets in various districts according to their actual circumstances, under which the markets are closed an hour earlier for deep cleansing once every 3 months. Better still, sensor-type toilet seat sanitisers have been introduced to toilet cubicles, and automatic soap dispensers have been installed progressively in toilets. Anti-microbial coating has been applied to the common areas and facilities of most public markets.

Cleansing and disinfection of the households of confirmed patients by cleansing workers have also been arranged according to the instructions of the Centre for Health Protection of the Department of Health, while sweeping and washing of public places in the vicinity of the buildings concerned have been enhanced to maintain environmental hygiene. More mobile cleansing teams and staff have been engaged for RCPs and public toilets with extended opening hours as necessary. A total of 135 additional street washing and mobile cleansing teams have been employed for enhancing street cleansing service, so as to maintain environmental hygiene. The expenditure incurred was absorbed by the Anti-epidemic Fund.

FEHD will continue to deploy resources for anti-epidemic efforts against COVID-19.

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