

Checklist for Operators and Consumers **On Mask-on Drinking with a Straw in a Bar/Pub**

The Government has received public enquiries on what is regarded as a proper way of mask-on drinking with a straw in a bar/pub. We have obtained the professional advice of Professor Yuen Kwok-yung of the University of Hong Kong and the Centre for Health Protection, and set out a checklist below for general reference by operators and consumers.

2. All must comply with the Prevention and Control of Disease (Requirements and Directions) (Business and Premises) Regulation (Cap. 599F) and the prevailing directions made by the Secretary for Food and Health thereunder; the Prevention and Control of Disease (Prohibition on Group Gathering) Regulation (Cap. 599G) and Prevention and Control of Disease (Wearing of Mask) Regulation (Cap. 599I).

3. All are advised to make reference to the pamphlet on “use mask properly – protect ourselves and protect others” published by the Centre for Health Protection (https://www.chp.gov.hk/files/her/use_mask_properly_pamphlet.pdf). When used properly, masks can help prevent transmission of COVID-19. There may be virus, bacteria and dirt on the outer surface of a mask, and please avoid touching the outer surface of the mask.

4. If mask-on drinking with a straw in a bar/pub is to be practised, one must always keep oneself sober, ensure the mask fit snugly over the face covering nose, mouth and chin and should observe the following points –

- (a) Use a new mask (which is clean) before entering the premises;
- (b) Choose a soft and flexible straw;
- (c) Must not allow the straw to touch the outer surface of the mask at any time;
- (d) Perform hand hygiene (e.g. using alcoholic handrub) strictly just before inserting a straw for drinking behind the mask;
- (e) Insert the straw between your chin and the inner surface of the mask through the lower end of the mask;
- (f) Always be careful not to drink too rapidly with a straw;
- (g) If one’s hand needs to touch or change the mask, perform hand hygiene (e.g. using alcoholic handrub) strictly beforehand and afterwards;
- (h) Bring spare mask(s) for replacement, in case the mask in use has become unsuitable for continued use (e.g. damaged mask, deformed metallic strip or contaminated inner surface); and
- (i) Change to a new mask when leaving the premises, as the used mask may have been soaked after drinking.