

October 15, 2021

Dear Editor,

This responds to your article “Asian countries are at last abandoning zero-COVID strategies” (October 9).

In adopting the “zero-COVID” strategy, the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government puts people’s health as the top priority, and adjusts border control and social distancing measures in tandem with the epidemic situation, having regard to public health protection, economic impact and social acceptance. This strategy is embraced by our community as their lives and livelihood are safeguarded. To say public health messaging goes unheard is mistaken. Our Chief Executive announced in April 2021 the new direction under the “vaccine bubble” concept, and we keep a close watch on public sentiments when adjusting the control measures.

More importantly, Hong Kong has one of the lowest incidences of, and deaths per capita from, COVID-19 across the globe. At the same time, we are leading a normal life over the past year and more. The facts that Hong Kong residents have never experienced a shutdown like other places, and that Hong Kong ranks among the top in your “normalcy index”, speak for themselves. For some countries and regions which have adjusted their strategies and abandoned “zero infection” objective, the number of infection, hospitalisation and death cases have generally increased and maintained at high level, whereas daily life of their citizens seems yet to resume to the level of normalcy that we have achieved by now.

We will continue to closely monitor the local and international epidemic situation and put people’s health first in our anti-epidemic efforts.

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