

Government finishes exercise on “restriction-testing declaration” in respect of specified “restricted area” in On Tai Estate, Kwun Tong, and enforcement operation for breaches of compulsory testing notice

The Government yesterday (February 24) exercised the power under the Prevention and Control of Disease (Compulsory Testing for Certain Persons) Regulation (Cap. 599J) to make a "restriction-testing declaration" effective from 5pm yesterday, under which people (hereafter referred to as "persons subject to compulsory testing") within the specified "restricted area" in Kwun Tong (i.e. Ming Tai House, On Tai Estate, Kwun Tong) were required to stay in their premises and undergo compulsory testing. Persons subject to compulsory testing were required to stay in their premises until all such persons identified in the "restricted area" had undergone testing and the test results were mostly ascertained. Moreover, the Government issued a compulsory testing notice yesterday, requiring person who had been present at the above building for more than two hours from February 11 to February 24, 2022, even if they were not present in the "restricted area" at the time when the declaration took effect, must undergo compulsory testing on or before February 26, 2022.

The Government announced the completion of the compulsory testing exercise in respect of Ming Tai House "restricted area" at around 1.30pm today (February 25) and carried out enforcement action in Ming Tai House afterwards to ascertain that all people in Ming Tai House had undergone compulsory testing in accordance with the requirements of the relevant declaration and compulsory testing notice. The Government announced that the enforcement operation in respect of Ming Tai House ended at around 3.30pm today.

The Government delivered food pack to persons subject to compulsory testing to facilitate their meal arrangements. The Housing Department has set up a hotline for people restricted by the declaration to make enquiries and seek assistance.

The Government thanks persons subject to compulsory testing for their support and understanding. With everyone's co-operation and efforts, coupled with the tireless efforts of the testing contractors, residents have been informed about their testing results by SMS notification. After finishing the compulsory testing exercise at around 1.30pm today, the Government took enforcement action in the "restricted area" immediately to verify that all people in the "restricted area" had undergone testing according to the

requirements of the declaration and the compulsory testing notice. Persons who could present an SMS notification containing a negative test result as proof of having undergone the compulsory testing could leave the "restricted area" through the designated exit after providing personal information to a prescribed officer. The enforcement operation was completed at around 3.30pm. Test records of about 430 persons subject to compulsory testing were checked. Nobody was found to have not undergone compulsory testing. Taking into account the above situation, the Secretary for Food and Health revoked the "restriction-testing declaration" in accordance with Cap. 599J (see attachment).

The Government reminded the households at Ming Tai House, who have not answered the door to contact the Government for arrangement of testing as soon as possible after reading the notices put up by the Government, in the hope of eliminating the possible risk of further spread of the virus in the community.

The Government thanks all participating government staff and the testing agencies for their hard work. The Government is also grateful to those subject to compulsory testing for their support and understanding, and their full co-operation during this period in undergoing testing and waiting for the results at home.

The Government will seriously follow up on the compliance situation of the compulsory testing notices and the "restriction-testing declaration" by persons subject to compulsory testing. Any person who fails to comply with the compulsory testing notices commits an offence and may be liable to a fixed penalty of \$10,000. The person will also be issued with a compulsory testing order, requiring him or her to undergo testing within a specified time frame. Failure to comply with the order or the "restriction-testing declaration" is an offence and the offender may be liable to a fine of level 4 (\$25,000) and imprisonment for six months.

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[HA announces senior appointment \(with photo\)](#)

The following is issued on behalf of the Hospital Authority:

The Hospital Authority (HA) spokesperson announced the following senior appointment today (February 25).

The Cluster Chief Executive (CCE) of New Territories West Cluster (NTWC) and Hospital Chief Executive (HCE) of Tuen Mun Hospital (TMH), Dr Simon Tang, will be rotated to serve as the Director of Cluster Services with effect from June 1, 2022, succeeding Dr Deacons Yeung upon his rotation to serve as the CCE of Kowloon East Cluster and HCE of United Christian Hospital on the same day. The rotation of senior executives among the HA Head Office and Clusters ensures the continuous development and grooming of leaders with management skills, experience and exposure.

Dr Tang is an emergency physician by background. Dr Tang is a seasoned senior executive with extensive management experience at the corporate and cluster level. He has been serving as the CCE of NTWC and HCE of TMH since April 2018. Dr Tang has led a number of initiatives to optimise service demand and improve service quality in NTWC, including implementing measures to manage the waiting time of Specialist Out-patient Clinics and launching various smart hospital initiatives. Prior to his current position, he was the Deputy HCE of TMH from 2012 to 2017. He has also been appointed as Deputising Quality and Safety Director in Head Office from July to December 2017.

The HA Chairman, Mr Henry Fan, and Chief Executive, Dr Tony Ko, congratulate Dr Tang on his new appointment and wish him every success in taking up the new role.



Temporary closure of some post offices due to staff members testing preliminarily positive for COVID-19

Hongkong Post said today (February 25) that due to some postal staff members testing preliminarily positive for COVID-19, Yuen Long Post Office (including the Post Office Box Lobby), Sha Tin Central Post Office and Tsuen Wan Post Office are closed until February 28. The Post Office Box Lobby of Sha Tin Central Post Office will be reopened tomorrow (February 26), and the Post Office Box Lobby of Tsuen Wan Post Office will be reopened on February 28. Besides, Concorde Road Post Office (including the Post Office Box Lobby) is closed until March 1.

The postal staff members concerned work at the counter behind a partition to keep an appropriate social distance from customers. They underwent temperature screening when attending work and their body temperature was normal. They were wearing masks while on duty.

Upon notification of the cases, Hongkong Post arranged for all postal staff members concerned to undergo COVID-19 testing and thorough cleaning and disinfection of all the facilities and mail items of the premises pursuant to the guidelines set out by the Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health (DH).

Besides, Tsat Tsz Mui Post Office will be closed from tomorrow until March 1 as it is located at Man Hong House in Model Housing Estate, which is included in a compulsory testing notice. Its Post Office Box Lobby will be reopened tomorrow afternoon.

Members of the public can access postal services at other nearby post offices in the districts. For the locations of the post offices, please refer to the following

link: hongkongpost.hk/en/about_us/network/post_offices/index.html#list.

Hongkong Post apologises for the inconvenience caused. For enquiries, members of the public may call the Hongkong Post enquiry hotline at 2921 2222.

Hongkong Post will continue to implement measures for social distancing and infection control at all postal facilities to safeguard the health of staff and the public, and maintain close liaison with the CHP of the DH. Staff members are also reminded to take note of their personal hygiene and stay vigilant at all times, and are advised to seek medical advice immediately in case of feeling unwell.

Government makes “restriction-testing declaration” and issues compulsory testing notice in respect of specified “restricted area” in Sau Wah House, Sau Mau Ping Estate, Kwun Tong

The Government today (February 25) exercised the power under the Prevention and Control of Disease (Compulsory Testing for Certain Persons) Regulation (Cap. 599J) to make a "restriction-testing declaration" (declaration) effective from 4.30pm, under which people (hereafter referred to as "persons subject to compulsory testing") within the specified "restricted area" in Kwun Tong (i.e. Sau Wah House, Sau Mau Ping Estate, Kwun Tong, excluding Lok Sin Tong Man Ng Wing Yee Kindergarten on G/F. See Annex.) are required to stay in their premises and undergo compulsory testing. Persons subject to compulsory testing are required to stay in their premises until all such persons identified in the "restricted area" have undergone testing and the test results are mostly ascertained. The Government aims at finishing this exercise at about 1pm tomorrow (February 26) The operation may be extended depending on test results.

A Government spokesman said, "Under Cap. 599J, the Government can, according to the needs of infection control, make a 'restriction-testing

declaration'. As the sewage discharged from the above building was tested positive for COVID-19, it is suspected that there are asymptomatic patients in the building. Given the risk of infection in the relevant area is assessed to be likely higher, the Government decided to make a 'restriction-testing declaration' for the relevant area."

The Government has set up temporary specimen collection stations at the "restricted area" and requested persons subject to compulsory testing to undergo testing before 10pm today. Arrangements have been made for persons subject to compulsory testing to undergo a nucleic acid test at specimen collection stations where dedicated staff will collect samples through combined nasal and throat swabs. Persons subject to compulsory testing must stay at their place of residence until all test results are ascertained to avoid cross-infection risk. The Government will arrange for door-to-door specimen collection for people with impaired mobility.

The Government spokesman said, "We understand that this exercise will cause inconvenience to the public. The Government has made arrangements to carry out testing for all persons present in the 'restricted area' as soon as possible. The aim is to strive to complete testing of all identified persons subject to compulsory testing and confirm the results, and finish the exercise at around 1pm tomorrow. The Government will make a public announcement when the declaration expires officially. In the cases in which employees are unable to go to work because of the declaration, the Government hopes their employers can exercise discretion and not deduct the salaries or benefits of the employees."

If staying in the "restricted area" will cause unreasonable hardship to individuals who are not residents in the area when the declaration takes effect, government officers may exercise discretion and allow that person to leave the area after considering the individual circumstances. That person must have followed the instructions to undergo testing and leave his/her personal information for contact purposes.

According to the compulsory testing notice to be issued today, any person who had been present at the above building for more than two hours from February 12 to February 25, 2022, even if they were not present in the "restricted area" at the time when the declaration took effect, must undergo compulsory testing on or before February 27, 2022. As a mutant strain is involved, for prudence's sake, vaccinated persons and persons who have recently been tested are also required to undergo testing.

The Housing Department has set up a hotline (Tel: 2775 0818) which has started operation at 4.30pm today for residents restricted by the declaration to make enquiries and seek assistance. The Social Welfare Department will also provide assistance to the affected persons.

The Government appeals to persons subject to compulsory testing for their full co-operation by registering and undergoing testing, and waiting for the results patiently at home. The Government will strictly follow up on whether the persons concerned have complied with the compulsory testing notices and "restriction-testing declaration". Any person who fails to comply

with the compulsory testing notices commits an offence and may be fined a fixed penalty of \$10,000. The person would also be issued with a compulsory testing order requiring him or her to undergo testing within a specified time frame. Failure to comply with the compulsory testing order or the "restriction-testing declaration" is an offence and the offender would be liable to a fine at level 4 (\$25,000) and imprisonment for six months.