

## Government enforces "restriction-testing declaration" and compulsory testing notice in respect of specified "restricted area" in Tsing Yi

The Government yesterday (March 1) 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 2.30pm yesterday, under which people (hereafter referred to as "persons subject to compulsory testing") within the specified "restricted area" in Tsing Yi (i.e. Chun Hin House, Ching Chun Court, 2-2B Ching Hong Road, Tsing Yi) were 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. In addition, the Government issued a compulsory testing notice yesterday to any person who had been present at the building for more than two hours from February 16 to March 1, 2022, to undergo compulsory testing on or before March 3, 2022, even if they were not present in the "restricted area" at the time when the declaration took effect. The Government finished the compulsory testing exercise at around 11am today (March 2) and is now carrying out enforcement actions in the "restricted area" to verify that all people in the "restricted area" have undergone compulsory testing. The Government will further announce the revocation time of the declaration.

Starting from around 11am today, persons in the specified "restricted area" in Tsing Yi who have undergone testing and are able to present SMS notifications with negative test results or wear wristbands as proof of having undergone testing may leave the "restricted area" through the designated exit after providing personal information to a prescribed officer.

The Government set up temporary specimen collection stations in the "restricted area" yesterday and requested persons subject to compulsory testing to collect combined nasal and throat swab samples at the stations to undergo a COVID-19 virus test before 9pm yesterday. Around 520 people within the "restricted area" had undergone testing, among which 64 cases tested preliminarily positive. The Centre for Health Protection of the Department of Health will arrange to follow up.

Moreover, the Government also assigned staff to visit around 230 households within the "restricted area", among which 14 households did not answer the door. The Government will take measures to follow up.

The Government reiterates that enforcement actions will be taken seriously. Any person who fails to present an SMS notification with a test result or wear a wristband as proof of having undergone testing breaches the

compulsory testing notice and may be liable to a fine of \$10,000. The person will also be issued with a compulsory testing order, requiring him/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 may be liable to a fine of level 4 (\$25,000) and imprisonment for six months.

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## [Hong Kong 2022 International Urban Forestry Conference opens \(with photo\)](#)

The Hong Kong 2022 International Urban Forestry Conference, organised by the Development Bureau (DEVB), was conducted online today (March 2). The biennial event is one of the celebration activities for the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.

Under the theme "Well-being: Our Urban Forest – Our Community", the two-day online conference aims to provide a platform for renowned international experts, decision-makers, academics and industry professionals to share experiences, exchange best practices on urban forestry management and renew ties with one another.

In her opening address, the Chief Executive, Mrs Carrie Lam, said never before have the benefits of the environment and well-being been more essential, more in demand. The urban forest provides much more than fresh air, exercise and quiet time. It also offers therapeutic and restorative value at community and personal levels.

"Greening and landscaping have been widely incorporated in the planning of our new development areas. Through the planning strategy 'Hong Kong 2030+: Towards a Planning Vision and Strategy Transcending 2030' (Hong Kong 2030+), my Government is committed to ensuring that Hong Kong remains a liveable, competitive and sustainable city – Asia's World City", Mrs Lam said. She mentioned one of the goals under Hong Kong 2030+ is to develop the city in close concert with nature. In the conference, a number of presentation topics by renowned international speakers, including a specialist from the World Health Organization, have a similar vision on planning cities to connect humans with nature, developing nature-based ecological infrastructure, and creating beautiful living spaces. Their presentations provide valuable learning opportunities for cross-disciplinary practitioners in planning and formulating future developments that aspire to a liveable and sustainable environment for Hong Kong.

With the US\$26 million (HK\$200 million) Urban Forestry Support Fund launched in mid-2020, Mrs Lam said the focus in Hong Kong continues to be on developing arboriculture and horticulture talent. "To date, some 430 students

have been approved under the study scheme, while close to 100 graduates are now engaged as trainees in private companies, as well as government departments," she added.

During the conference, over 20 speakers from Hong Kong, the Mainland and overseas will share their insights on four broad areas and sessions, namely Well-being Cities, Urban Forestry in the Greater Bay Area, Landscape Design for Health and Well-being, and the Healthy Urban Forest.

Co-organised by the Construction Industry Council, The Hong Kong Institute of Landscape Architects, the Technological and Higher Education Institute of Hong Kong and the University of Hong Kong, and supported by other government departments, green organisations as well as education and professional institutes, the conference has attracted over 1,700 registrations from both local and cities all over the world.



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## ITB secretary tests positive for COVID-19

The Innovation and Technology Bureau (ITB) today (March 2) said that a secretary of ITB has tested positive for COVID-19 with a rapid test.

The secretary is responsible for secretarial duties for the Secretary for Innovation and Technology, Mr Alfred Sit. She does not need to have contact with the public and had no recent travel history. She wore masks and followed relevant disease prevention measures at work. She last performed duties on February 24 and last met with Mr Sit on February 22.

Mr Sit has been taking COVID-19 rapid tests every day and the results are all negative.

The ITB will conduct thorough cleaning and sterilisation at the workplace concerned, and has arranged for relevant staff members to undergo COVID-19 testing.

The ITB will continue to implement disease prevention measures vigorously, and has reminded all staff members to pay attention to personal hygiene and stay vigilant at all times. They should seek medical advice if they feel unwell.

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## **Tuen Mun District Tai Hing Reporting Centre services suspended**

Tuen Mun District Tai Hing Reporting Centre has been underutilised since it commenced operation in July last year. To better allocate resources to cope with the current pandemic challenges, Tai Hing Reporting Centre will suspend its services from March 7.

The report rooms of Tuen Mun Division Police Station and Castle Peak Division Police Station, which are established under Tuen Mun Police District, will continue to provide 24-hour services. Members of the public can make report through the following channels:

- Call the report rooms of Tuen Mun Division Police Station (Telephone number: 3661 1670) or Castle Peak Division Police Station (Telephone number: 3661 1668);
- Use the e-report form on the Hong Kong Police Website (Website: [www.police.gov.hk](http://www.police.gov.hk)) or 'e-Report Centre' of the Police's smart-phone application;
- By post to Tuen Mun Division Police Station (Address: 100 Pui To Road, Tuen Mun, New Territories);
- Dial 999 for emergency services.

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## **Temporary closure of some post offices**

â€‹Hongkong Post said today (March 2) that as some postal staff members have received positive results when undergoing COVID-19 rapid antigen tests, Wan Chai Post Office, Hing Fat Street Post Office, Shau Kei Wan Post Office, Kowloon Bay Post Office, Tin Yuet Post Office and Peng Chau Post Office are closed until March 4. The Post Office Box Lobby of Wan Chai Post Office will be reopened on March 3.

The postal staff members concerned 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).

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: [www.hongkongpost.hk/en/about\\_us/network/post\\_offices/index.html#list](http://www.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.