

HAD sets up "StayHomeSafe" Scheme telephone hotline

The Home Affairs Department (HAD) has set up a 24-hour telephone hotline (1833 019) to provide support and assistance to persons undergoing home quarantine under the "StayHomeSafe" Scheme. The hotline has commenced operation today (February 10). The hotline has 100 lines, which may be expanded depending on the demand, and is operated in two hotline centres in Wong Tai Sin Community Centre and Lai Chi Kok Community Hall.

The Government launched the "StayHomeSafe" Scheme on February 8, arranging for close contacts and household contacts of close contacts who are deemed appropriate after assessment to undergo home quarantine for 14 days and four days respectively.

The hotline staff will provide general enquiry service and mark down requests for assistance made by persons undergoing home quarantine under the "StayHomeSafe" Scheme, and refer the relevant cases to relevant departments for follow-up as appropriate.

Government enforces "restriction-testing declaration" and compulsory testing notice in respect of specified "restricted area" in Cheuk Ping House, Long Ping Estate, Yuen Long (with photo)

â€‹The Government yesterday (February 9) 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 7.30pm yesterday, under which people (hereafter referred to as "persons subject to compulsory testing") within the specified "restricted area" in Yuen Long (i.e. Cheuk Ping House, Long Ping Estate, Yuen Long) 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 above building for more than two hours from January 27 to February 9, 2022, to undergo compulsory testing on or before February 11, 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 2.10pm today (February 10) 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 2.10pm today, persons in the specified "restricted area" in Cheuk Ping House, Long Ping Estate, Yuen Long 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 1am today. Around 980 people within the area had undergone testing, among which seven cases tested preliminarily positive were found. The Centre for Health Protection of the Department of Health will arrange to follow up.

Moreover, the Government also assigned staff to visit 399 households within the "restricted area", among which 23 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.



SWD staff member tests positive for COVID-19

The Social Welfare Department (SWD) today (February 10) said that a staff member of the Medical Social Services Unit of the East Kowloon Psychiatric Centre has tested positive for COVID-19.

The staff member last performed duties on February 4. She had been wearing a mask when performing duties. Her body temperature was normal when undergoing temperature screening during work.

A thorough cleaning and disinfection has been arranged at the premises concerned. All SWD staff of the same floor will undergo COVID-19 testing and work from home while waiting for the results. The SWD will maintain close contact with the Centre for Health Protection of the Department of Health to take follow-up action as appropriate. The Medical Social Services Unit of the East Kowloon Psychiatric Centre at Phase II, 1/F, East Kowloon Polyclinic in Diamond Hill will be closed temporarily. Reopening arrangements will be announced later.

During the pandemic, the department has been strictly implementing various disease prevention measures, including measuring the body temperature of people entering the office and providing masks and other personal protective equipment for staff. Staff members are reminded to pay attention to personal hygiene and to stay vigilant. They should seek medical advice immediately if feeling unwell.

Government enforces “restriction-testing declaration” and compulsory testing notices in respect of specified “restricted area” in Tuen Mun

â€‹The Government on February 6 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 7.30pm on that day, under which people (hereafter referred to as "persons subject to

compulsory testing") within the specified "restricted area" in Tuen Mun (i.e. Leung Kit House, excluding LKWFS Chu Sui Lan Anglo-Chinese Kindergarten on G/F, Leung King Estate, 31 Tin King Road, Tuen Mun) were required to stay in their premises and undergo compulsory testing. The Government yesterday (February 9) extended the period of operation to today (February 10). Persons subject to compulsory testing are required to stay in their premises and undergo a total of three tests on February 6, February 8 and February 9 under the designated arrangement under the declaration, until all such persons identified in the "restricted area" have undergone testing and the test results are mostly ascertained. In addition, for those who have visited the "restricted area" in the past two weeks for more than two hours, they should undergo testing on or before February 9, 2022, in accordance with the compulsory testing notices issued earlier. The Government finished the compulsory testing exercise at around 12.15pm today 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 12.15pm today, persons in the "restricted area" in Tuen Mun 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" and requested persons subject to compulsory testing to collect combined nasal and throat swab samples at the stations to undergo COVID-19 virus tests on February 6, February 8 and February 9 as designated. As at 12am today, a total of about 4 650 person-time at Leung Kit House had undergone the three tests. A total of 73 cases tested preliminarily positive and three cases tested indeterminate were found. The Centre for Health Protection of the Department of Health is arranging follow-up actions.

Moreover, the Government also assigned staff to visit around 610 households, among which around 40 households did not answer the door. Those may include some households undergoing quarantine or isolation. Some units are possibly vacant as well. The Government does not have detailed information in this respect and 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 notices 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.

Launch Assistant of Marine Department tested positive for COVID-19

The Marine Department (MD) today (February 10) said that a Launch Assistant tested positive for COVID-19.

The staff member works on a launch of the Immigration Department without the need to have contact with the public in his daily work. He wore masks and followed relevant disease prevention measures at work. He last performed duties on February 5. The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health (DH) is following up on the case.

The MD has arranged thorough cleaning and sterilisation on the launch and the workplaces concerned in accordance with the CHP of DH's advice, and is arranging for all staff members working on the same launch to undergo COVID-19 testing.

The MD has been strictly implementing disease prevention measures during the epidemic and will continue to maintain close liaison with the CHP of DH. Staff members are reminded to pay attention to personal hygiene and to stay vigilant. They should seek medical advice immediately if feeling unwell.