

Government to gazette compulsory testing notice

The Government will exercise the power under the Prevention and Control of Disease (Compulsory Testing for Certain Persons) Regulation (Cap. 599J) and publish in the Gazette a compulsory testing notice, which requires any person who had been present at a specified premise during the specified period (persons subject to compulsory testing) to undergo a COVID-19 nucleic acid test.

Currently, in all districts in Hong Kong, if one or more new confirmed cases are found in the residential buildings (including buildings for both commercial and residential uses), or there are sewage samples tested positive which implied possible infection risks, the buildings will be included in the compulsory testing notice.

A premises fulfilling the above criteria will be included in the compulsory testing notice.

Details of the compulsory testing notice are as follows:

Any person who had been present at Lap Tak House, 81-87 Battery Street, Yau Ma Tei for more than two hours at any time during the period from March 24 to March 28, 2021 (including but not limited to visitors, residents and workers), have to undergo testing by March 30, 2021.

A spokesman for the Food and Health Bureau reminds the public that in accordance with the compulsory testing notice issued earlier, all household members of close contacts are required to undergo compulsory testing. Any person who had lived with a person placed under quarantine pursuant to section 22 of the Prevention and Control of Disease Regulation (Cap. 599A) (person under quarantine) in the same residential unit on the date of commencement of quarantine or during the 14 days before that day, and who becomes aware of the quarantine of the person under quarantine when the relevant quarantine has not yet been completed, have to undergo testing within two days of he/she becoming aware of the person under quarantine has been placed under quarantine and report to the Government the result of the test by phone (at 6275 6901), fax (at 2530 5872) or email (ct@csb.gov.hk) within three days of undergoing the test.

Starting from tomorrow (March 29), the mobile specimen collection station at 557 Shanghai Street, Mong Kok (opposite to Langham Place) will be relocated to Beech Street, Tai Kok Tsui and will be open until March 30 (Tuesday) tentatively.

The opening dates and operating hours of the mobile specimen collection stations in various districts providing free COVID-19 nucleic acid testing services for the general public are stated in the Annex. Apart from mobile specimen collection stations, persons subject to compulsory testing can also

choose to attend any of the community testing centres in all districts to receive testing free of charge. Persons with "LeaveHomeSafe" COVID-19 exposure notification or SMS notification from the Centre for Health Protection reminding them to undergo testing as soon as possible may receive free testing at community testing centres or mobile specimen collection stations (if service scope is applicable).

Persons subject to compulsory testing may choose to undergo testing via the following routes:

1. To visit any of the mobile specimen collection stations (see the list and target groups (if applicable) at www.coronavirus.gov.hk/eng/early-testing.html) for testing;
2. To attend any of the community testing centres (see the list at www.communitytest.gov.hk/en/);
3. To obtain a deep throat saliva specimen collection pack from any of the 121 post offices, vending machines set up at 20 MTR stations or 47 designated general outpatient clinics (GOPCs) of the Hospital Authority and return the specimen to one of the designated specimen collection points (see the distribution points and times, and the specimen collection points and times, at www.coronavirus.gov.hk/eng/early-testing.html);
4. To undergo testing at any of the GOPCs of the Hospital Authority as instructed by a medical professional of the Hospital Authority;
5. To self-arrange testing provided by private laboratories which are recognised by the Department of Health (DH) and can issue SMS notifications in respect of test results (see the list at www.coronavirus.gov.hk/pdf/List_of_recognised_laboratories_RTPCR.pdf); or
6. To use a specimen bottle distributed to the relevant specified premises by the Centre for Health Protection (if applicable), and return the specimen bottle with the sample collected as per relevant guidelines.

The spokesman cautioned that testing received at accident and emergency departments of the Hospital Authority or during hospital stays, or testing provided by private laboratories which cannot issue SMS notifications in respect of test results, does not comply with the requirements of the aforementioned compulsory testing notice.

"If persons subject to compulsory testing have symptoms, they should seek medical attention immediately and undergo testing as instructed by a medical professional. They should not attend the mobile specimen collection stations or the community testing centres."

Persons subject to compulsory testing must keep the SMS notification containing result of the test for checking by a law enforcement officer when the officer requires the persons to provide information about their undergoing the specified test.

Furthermore, persons subject to testing under the compulsory testing notices should, as far as reasonably practicable, take appropriate personal disease prevention measures including wearing a mask and maintaining hand hygiene, and, unless for the purpose of undergoing the specified test, stay at their place of residence and avoid going out until the test result is

ascertained as far as possible.

Any enquiries on compulsory testing arrangements may be addressed to the hotline at 6275 6901, which operates daily from 9am to 6pm. If persons subject to compulsory testing plan to conduct testing at any of the community testing centres, they can check the centre's appointment status in advance. The hotlines of the community testing centres are available at www.communitytest.gov.hk/en/info/.

The Government will continue to trace possibly infected persons who had been to the relevant premises, and seriously verify whether they had complied with the testing notices. Any person who fails to comply with the testing notices commits an offence and may be fined a fixed penalty of \$5,000. 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 order is an offence and the offender would be liable to a fine at level 4 (\$25,000) and imprisonment for six months.

Relevant officers of different government departments are empowered to perform certain functions under the relevant Regulations under the Prevention and Control of Disease Ordinance (Cap. 599), including requesting individuals to provide information and assistance when necessary. Any person who fails to comply with the relevant request commits an offence and would be liable to a fine at level 3 (\$10,000). Collection and use of any personal data for conducting COVID-19 tests must meet the requirements under the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance (Cap. 486). Government departments or testing service providers which handle the relevant information may provide the data to DH or other relevant departments for anti-epidemic purpose as necessary. The workflow does not involve the provision of any personal data to organisations or persons outside Hong Kong.

The spokesman said, "The Government urges all individuals who are in doubt about their own health conditions, or individuals with infection risks (such as individuals who visited places with epidemic outbreaks or contacted confirmed cases), to undergo testing promptly for early identification of infected persons."

COVID-19 Vaccination Programme statistics

The COVID-19 Vaccination Programme has been implemented for the 31st day since February 26, 2021.

So far, about 462 400 doses of COVID-19 vaccines have been administered for members of the public (please see Annex 1). Among them, about 443 900 persons have received their first dose, with about 292 600 persons receiving

the Sinovac vaccine and about 151 300 persons receiving the BioNTech vaccine. About 18 500 persons have received their second dose of the Sinovac vaccine.

In the last 24 hours ending at 8pm today (March 28), the following vaccination and booking figures were recorded:

- (i) About 6 600 persons received their first dose of the Sinovac vaccine, including about 6 200 persons vaccinated at eight Community Vaccination Centres (CVCs) and about 400 persons at private doctors and clinics participating in the programme;
- (ii) about 6 510 persons received their second dose of the Sinovac vaccine, including about 6 500 persons vaccinated at the CVCs and about 10 persons at private doctors and clinics;
- (iii) the overall percentage of people who have received the Sinovac vaccine at the eight CVCs is about 90 per cent; and
- (iv) about 3 500 persons have made online bookings for receiving their first and second doses of the Sinovac vaccine.

In the last 24 hours ending at 0.00am today, there were two cases of ambulance transfers to a hospital. Both persons were admitted for observation (please see Annex 2).

As background information, in the last 24 hours ending at 0.00am today, there were 38 cases of stroke or myocardial infarction that required admission to the Intensive Care Unit, Acute Stroke Unit and Cardiac Care Unit of public hospitals. The state of new cases admitted to the wards concerned is provided as a cross reference to enhance fuller public understanding of cases of the kind recorded on vaccine recipients.

North Lantau Hospital Hong Kong Infection Control Centre announces the isolation arrangement of an imported case

The following is issued on behalf of the Hospital Authority:

Regarding the isolation arrangement of an imported case in North Lantau Hospital Hong Kong Infection Control Centre (HKICC), the spokesperson for the Kowloon West Cluster made the following announcement today (March 28) :

A 45-year-old female patient, tested preliminarily positive for COVID-19, was admitted to HKICC on March 26. Since the patient concerned is an imported case, single isolation was arranged while she was waiting for the results of confirmation and mutation test, according to prevailing practice.

After she was confirmed as a positive case, the patient concerned was transferred to a cubicle, which had accommodated some other confirmed patients, for further treatment. Some 20 minutes later, healthcare staff found that the mutation test result of the patient concerned was still pending. She was thus immediately transferred to another cubicle for single isolation. HKICC was informed that the patient concerned was tested positive to N501Y mutation on March 27 morning.

The patient concerned had never left her bed nor contacted the other four patients during her 20-minute stay in the cohort cubicle. The beds were also separated from each other by curtains. Hence, the risk of infection is considered to be very low. All of the five patients are in stable condition.

HKICC is very concerned about the incident and has explained and extended apologies to the patients concerned. As precautionary measures, single isolation and mutation tests have been arranged for the four patients. HKICC will continue to closely monitor the condition of patients concerned and communicate with the Centre for Health Protection on the latest situation and patients' follow-up arrangement. Thorough cleansing and disinfection have been arranged for the cubicles concerned according to established guidelines.

HKICC has notified the Hospital Authority Head Office the above incident through the Advance Incident Reporting System. In-depth review on the admission workflow and isolation arrangement will also be conducted to prevent similar incidents from happening again.

Public hospitals daily update on COVID-19 cases

The following is issued on behalf of the Hospital Authority:

As at 9am today (March 28), 15 COVID-19 confirmed patients were discharged from hospital in the last 24 hours. Including a patient (case number: 11443) discharged earlier on March 26, a total of 11 056 patients with confirmed or probable infection have been discharged so far.

At present, there are 661 negative pressure rooms in public hospitals with 1 201 negative pressure beds activated. A total of 154 confirmed patients are currently hospitalised in 22 public hospitals and the North

Lantau Hospital Hong Kong Infection Control Centre, among which 10 patients are in critical condition, seven are in serious condition and the remaining 137 patients are in stable condition.

The Hospital Authority will maintain close contact with the Centre for Health Protection to monitor the latest developments and to inform the public and healthcare workers on the latest information in a timely manner.

Details of the above-mentioned patients are as follows:

Patient condition	Case numbers
Discharged	8832, 11196, 11208, 11274, 11280, 11294, 11300, 11305, 11338, 11349, 11361, 11409, 11415, 11431, 11434, 11443
Critical	1989, 3496, 6607, 6794, 8018, 8078, 9612, 9907, 10358, 10942
Serious	6386, 7468, 9055, 9135, 10984, 11040, 11055

Fatal traffic accident in Tsing Yi

Police are investigating a fatal traffic accident in Tsing Yi this afternoon (March 28) in which a 64-year-old man died.

At around 1pm, a motorcycle driven by the 64-year-old man was travelling along Tsing Sha Highway towards Tsim Sha Tsui. Upon reaching Hoi Lai Estate, the motorcycle reportedly lost control and rammed into railings.

Sustaining serious injuries to his head and body, the man was rushed to Caritas Medical Centre in unconscious state and was certified dead at 1.50pm.

Investigation by the Special Investigation Team of Traffic, New Territories South is underway.

Anyone who witnessed the accident or has any information to offer is urged to contact the investigating officers at 3661 1346.