

Government strongly rebuts fallacious comments on Universal Community Testing Programme (with Chinese only graphics)

A spokesman for the Government today (August 30) expressed deep disappointment and regret over the false information on the Internet and social media platforms about the Universal Community Testing Programme (UCTP) and stressed that the UCTP will help identify asymptomatic COVID-19 patients in the community, enabling members of the public to resume their normal lives and economic activities early. The spokesman appealed to members of the public to participate in the programme to demonstrate with action the concerted efforts of the community to fight the virus.

The spokesman said that the Government noted that a number of exaggerated and false comments about the UCTP were circulated on the Internet and social media platforms in recent days, which contained fallacious information in various areas including the way specimens will be collected, infection control, as well as accuracy and effectiveness of testing. Given that the Government has explained various issues through press releases, press conferences, the dedicated website (www.communitytest.gov.hk), posts on Tamar Talk as well as TV and radio programmes attended by relevant directors of bureaux, the Government has reasons to believe that the recent fallacious messages are deliberate attempts to scare people, intending to smear the UCTP and mislead members of the public in order to deter them from taking part in the programme.

"These acts run counter to the spirit of the community to fight the disease together, and fall short of the expectations of the medical personnel and a large number of frontline staff members who have been working hard to fight the virus as well as enterprises and members of the public in support of the programme. The acts are extremely disappointing and regretful and deserve the condemnation by the community," the spokesman said.

The spokesman stressed that the UCTP is safe, convenient and quick, providing full protection of personal privacy. People should rest assured that various infection control and social distancing measures are in place in all the 141 community testing centres across the territory and that personal particulars, including the specimens and the testing results, will be kept only in Hong Kong and for testing purposes. The Government will deal with the personal particulars of members of the public very carefully. The workflow does not involve any transfer of personal particulars to institutions or persons outside the territory.

"Data revealed that a quarter of COVID-19 patients are asymptomatic and many patients thought that they would not be infected before their cases were confirmed. In fact, in the arrangement by the Hospital Authority in the past

month in which members of the public can collect specimen bottles at outpatient clinics for testing of their own accord, and the voluntary testing for target groups arranged by various Government departments, 62 and 87 asymptomatic patients were identified respectively, representing 0.22 per cent and 0.02 per cent of the total number of tests.

"The aforementioned testing on a limited basis suggests that there are still silent transmission chains in the community, posing a persistent threat related to the epidemic and which are unfavourable to the gradual relaxation of social distancing measures by the Government. With the full support of the Central Government this time round, the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government is equipped with the testing capability to launch the one-off UCTP to provide voluntary virus testing for all citizens, which is timely and offers reassuring support for the anti-epidemic work of Hong Kong.

"The more the number of people taking part in the UCTP, the more likely asymptomatic patients in the community are identified for isolation treatment, so that transmission chains can be cut and people's normal lives and economic activities can be resumed early," the spokesman said.

The spokesman reminded the public to take great care to thoughtfully consider the news on the UCTP and refer to the information disseminated by the Government if in doubt. The Government has set up a dedicated website (www.communitytest.gov.hk) for members of the public to make appointments for testing and disseminate accurate information about the programme. The Government made clarifications about the false information on the Internet and social media platforms through posts on Tamar Talk and other channels.

"The Government thanks more than 400 000 members of the public for making online appointments from yesterday. We will do our utmost to ensure that the specimen collection procedures for members of the public in the community testing centres are safe and orderly. We also express our heartfelt thanks to the groups and district organisations for helping members of the public to sign up for the programme and enterprises for facilitating staff members to conduct tests in the community testing centres," the spokesman said.

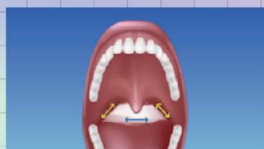
Protect yourselves and others, please participate in the UCTP.

Members of the public are welcome to visit www.communitytest.gov.hk to make appointments for testing now.

**插入半個頭
深度採樣**



**拭子只伸入
鼻腔1-2厘米和咽喉，
於黏膜表皮揩拭數次**



**採樣/輪候
有感染風險**



**檢測中心從感染控制角度評為合適
有充足社交距離和感染控制措施**



檢測不準確



**進行測試的臨時氣膜實驗室已參加
及通過衛生署外部質量評估項目，
以確保檢測技術水平和質素**



**「假陽性」
令自己冇病變有病**



**所有呈初步陽性的個案
均會由衛生署覆檢
確定無誤才被定為「確診」**



成效不大



**通過普及檢測，可找出社區隱形
患者，截斷社區傳播鏈
為己為人，市民參與至為重要**



Police warn protestors gathering and chanting slogans in a shopping mall on Argyle Street, Mong Kok to leave immediately

At about 5pm today (August 30), protestors gathered and chanted slogans in a shopping mall on Argyle Street, Mong Kok, which may constitute the offence of “participating in an unauthorised assembly” under the Public Order Ordinance and relevant offences under the Prevention and Control of Disease (Prohibition on Group Gathering) Regulation. Some protestors even chanted the slogan “Liberate Hong Kong, revolution of our times”, which may breach the National Security Law.

Police warn the crowd to stop gathering and leave immediately. Members of the public should refrain from taking part in such activities. Police officers may enter the mall to enforce the law resolutely.

CHP investigates 15 additional confirmed cases of COVID-19

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health has announced that as of 0.00am, August 30, the CHP was investigating 15 additional confirmed cases of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), taking the number of cases to 4 802 in Hong Kong so far (comprising 4 801 confirmed cases and one probable case).

Among the newly reported cases announced, five had a travel history during the incubation period.

The CHP's epidemiological investigations and relevant contact tracing on the confirmed cases are ongoing. For case details and contact tracing information, please see the Annex or the list of buildings with confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the past 14 days and the latest local situation of COVID-19 available on the website "COVID-19 Thematic Website" (www.coronavirus.gov.hk).

In view of the severe epidemic situation, the CHP called on members of the public to avoid going out, having social contact and dining out. They

should put on a surgical mask and maintain stringent hand hygiene when they need to go out. As a number of recent cases involve elderly people, the CHP strongly urged the elderly to stay home as far as possible and avoid going out. They should consider asking their family and friends to help with everyday tasks such as shopping for basic necessities.

A spokesman for the CHP said, "Given that the situation of COVID-19 infection remains severe and that there is a continuous increase in the number of cases reported around the world, members of the public are strongly urged to avoid all non-essential travel outside Hong Kong.

"The CHP also strongly urges the public to maintain at all times strict personal and environmental hygiene, which is key to personal protection against infection and prevention of the spread of the disease in the community. On a personal level, members of the public should wear a surgical mask when having respiratory symptoms, taking public transport or staying in crowded places. They should also perform hand hygiene frequently, especially before touching the mouth, nose or eyes.

"As for household environmental hygiene, members of the public are advised to maintain drainage pipes properly, regularly pour water into drain outlets (U-traps) and cover all floor drain outlets when they are not in use. After using the toilet, they should put the toilet lid down before flushing to avoid spreading germs."

Moreover, the Government has launched the website "COVID-19 Thematic Website" (www.coronavirus.gov.hk) for announcing the latest updates on various news on COVID-19 infection and health advice to help the public understand the latest updates. Members of the public may also gain access to information via the COVID-19 WhatsApp Helpline launched by the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer. Simply by saving 9617 1823 in their phone contacts or clicking the link wa.me/85296171823?text=hi, they will be able to obtain information on COVID-19 as well as the "StayHomeSafe" mobile app and wristband via WhatsApp.

To prevent pneumonia and respiratory tract infections, members of the public should always maintain good personal and environmental hygiene. They are advised to:

- Wear a surgical mask when taking public transport or staying in crowded places. It is important to wear a mask properly, including performing hand hygiene before wearing and after removing a mask;
- Perform hand hygiene frequently, especially before touching the mouth, nose or eyes, after touching public installations such as handrails or doorknobs, or when hands are contaminated by respiratory secretions after coughing or sneezing;
- Maintain drainage pipes properly and regularly (about once a week) pour about half a litre of water into each drain outlet (U-trap) to ensure environmental hygiene;
- Cover all floor drain outlets when they are not in use;
- After using the toilet, put the toilet lid down before flushing to avoid spreading germs;

- Wash hands with liquid soap and water, and rub for at least 20 seconds. Then rinse with water and dry with a disposable paper towel. If hand washing facilities are not available, or when hands are not visibly soiled, performing hand hygiene with 70 to 80 per cent alcohol-based handrub is an effective alternative;
 - Cover your mouth and nose with tissue paper when sneezing or coughing. Dispose of soiled tissues into a lidded rubbish bin, then wash hands thoroughly; and
 - When having respiratory symptoms, wear a surgical mask, refrain from work or attending class at school, avoid going to crowded places and seek medical advice promptly.
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Public hospitals daily update on COVID-19 cases

The following is issued on behalf of the Hospital Authority:

As at 9am today (August 30), 33 COVID-19 confirmed patients were discharged from hospital in the last 24 hours. So far, a total of 4 320 patients with confirmed or probable infection have been discharged.

At present, there are 675 negative pressure rooms in public hospitals with 1 220 negative pressure beds activated. A total of 351 confirmed patients are currently hospitalised in 18 public hospitals and a community treatment facility, among which 23 patients are in critical condition, 33 are in serious condition and the remaining 295 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	2674, 3903, 3958, 4040, 4176, 4249, 4256, 4257, 4306, 4338, 4352, 4359, 4381, 4409, 4420, 4428, 4437, 4466, 4491, 4515, 4536, 4539, 4563, 4571, 4584, 4591, 4601, 4668, 4670, 4683, 4701, 4753, 4761
Critical	1401, 1470, 1650, 1835, 1989, 2007, 2792, 2912, 2968, 3308, 3626, 3635, 3764, 3904, 3949, 4101, 4187, 4213, 4429, 4530, 4641, 4706, 4774

Serious	1779, 1956, 1968, 2079, 2282, 2334, 2404, 2576, 2989, 3274, 3366, 3377, 3434, 3496, 3497, 3617, 3621, 3744, 3761, 3968, 4148, 4272, 4336, 4383, 4395, 4419, 4599, 4602, 4642, 4667, 4702, 4729, 4732
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[HAD to open temporary night heat shelters](#)

The Home Affairs Department will open 19 temporary night heat shelters tonight (August 30) for people in need of the service.

The shelters will be open from 10.30pm until 8am tomorrow.

For further information, please call the department's hotline before midnight on 2572 8427.

The 19 night heat shelters are located at:

Hong Kong Districts:

Central and Western –

Sai Ying Pun Community Complex Community Hall
3/F, Sai Ying Pun Community Complex,
2 High Street, Sai Ying Pun

Eastern –

Causeway Bay Community Centre
3/F, 7 Fook Yum Road, Causeway Bay

Southern –

Lei Tung Community Hall
Lei Tung Estate, Ap Lei Chau

Wan Chai –

Wan Chai Activities Centre
LG/F, Wan Chai Market, 258 Queen's Road East, Wan Chai

Kowloon Districts:

Kowloon City –

Hung Hom Community Hall
1/F, Kowloon City Government Offices,
42 Bailey Street, Hung Hom

Kwun Tong –
Lam Tin (West) Estate Community Centre
71 Kai Tin Road, Lam Tin

Sham Shui Po –
Shek Kip Mei Community Hall
G/F, Block 42, Shek Kip Mei Estate, Sham Shui Po

Wong Tai Sin –
Tsz Wan Shan (South) Estate Community Centre
45 Wan Wah Street, Tsz Wan Shan

Yau Tsim Mong –
Henry G Leong Yaumatei Community Centre
60 Public Square Street, Yau Ma Tei

New Territories Districts:

Islands –
Tung Chung Community Hall
G/F, Tung Chung Municipal Services Building,
39 Man Tung Road, Tung Chung

Kwai Tsing –
Kwai Shing Community Hall
Podium, Block 6, Kwai Shing West Estate, Kwai Chung

North –
Cheung Wah Community Hall
Cheung Wah Estate, Fanling

Sai Kung –
Hang Hau Community Hall
G/F, Sai Kung Tseung Kwan O Government Complex,
38 Pui Shing Road, Hang Hau, Tseung Kwan O

Sha Tin –
Hin Keng Neighbourhood Community Centre
5 Hin Wo Lane, Sha Tin

Tai Po –
Tai Po Community Centre
2 Heung Sze Wui Street, Tai Po

Tsuen Wan –
Shek Wai Kok Community Hall
Shek Wai Kok Estate, Tsuen Wan

Tuen Mun –
Butterfly Bay Community Centre
Butterfly Estate (near Tip Sum House), Tuen Mun

Yuen Long –
Long Ping Community Hall
Long Ping Estate, Yuen Long

Yuen Long –
Tin Yiu Community Centre
Tin Yiu Estate, Tin Shui Wai