

Government enforces “restriction-testing declaration” and compulsory testing notice in respect of specified “restricted area” in Tak Shan House, Tak Long Estate, Kowloon City

â€‹The Government yesterday (March 4) 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 1pm yesterday, under which people (hereafter referred to as "persons subject to compulsory testing") within the specified "restricted area" in Kowloon City (i.e. Tak Shan House, Tak Long Estate, Kowloon City) 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 February 19 to March 4, 2022 to undergo compulsory testing on or before March 6, 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 about noon today (March 5) 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 about noon today, persons in the specified "restricted area" in Kowloon City 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 8pm yesterday. Around 1 860 people within the area had undergone testing, among which 225 cases tested preliminarily positive and 34 cases tested indeterminate were found. The Centre for Health Protection of the Department of Health will arrange to follow up.

Regarding cases tested preliminarily positive in the specified "restricted area", the Government has provided additional food packs, health advice for persons tested preliminarily positive pending admission to

hospitals or isolation facilities, disinfection products and surgical masks to these persons and their household members pending follow-up arrangement.

Moreover, the Government also assigned staff to visit around 1 000 households within the "restricted area", among which 50 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.

Government announces latest situation of fresh food supply from Mainland

A Government spokesman announced today (March 5) that the supply of fresh food from the Mainland yesterday (March 4) was abundant. Members of public need not over-purchase supplies.

According to the latest information, the quantity of vegetables supplied from the Mainland to Hong Kong yesterday (as of midnight) by land and water transportation was comparable to that of the average daily vegetable supply from the Mainland of the previous year, standing at about 2 400 tonnes. The volume of vegetables sold through the wholesale markets of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) and the Vegetable Marketing Organization yesterday was about 759 tonnes. The average wholesale prices per catty for choi sum and pak choi stood at \$10.5 and \$8.2 respectively, and the overall wholesale price of vegetables was comparable to that of the previous day. The supply of eggs to the wholesale market remained steady and abundant, with the average daily supply standing at about 4 million for the past week.

The total supply of chilled meat from the Mainland yesterday was maintained at a level higher than that of a normal day and stood at about 89 tonnes, some 1.7 times Hong Kong's daily average supply from the Mainland. As for live pigs, the operator of the Sheung Shui Slaughterhouse is actively preparing for the early resumption of slaughtering service while the Tsuen Wan Slaughterhouse continues to provide service according to its operational circumstances.

The supply of chilled poultry yesterday was about 160 000 pieces, about 90 per cent of the average daily supplies from the Mainland on a normal day.

Around 9 000 live chickens were slaughtered locally yesterday, about 80 per cent of the average daily supply of the previous year.

Regarding the rice supply, in compliance with the requirement of the Government, stockholders of rice have to maintain the reserve stock of rice at a level sufficient for consumption by the local population for 15 days. The trade generally stocks double the required amount, which is sufficient for one month's consumption by Hong Kong citizens. In recent years, the import and consumption of rice in Hong Kong stands at a steady level of around 320 000 to 330 000 tonnes per year. The import quantity (including reserve stock) as of end-January 2022 was 30 400 tonnes. Suppliers also maintain a reserve for food that can be stored, such as frozen meat, for around three months' stock generally.

The Government keeps monitoring the food supply situation closely, and liaises with major food suppliers and the Mainland authorities to ensure a stable food supply.

The AFCD updates and publishes the fresh food supply information daily. Members of the public may visit the AFCD website for updates on daily supplies and wholesale prices of fresh food (www.afcd.gov.hk/english/agriculture/agr_fresh/agr_fresh.html).

Government enforces “restriction-testing declaration” and compulsory testing notice in respect of specified “restricted area” in Tseung Kwan O

The Government yesterday (March 4) 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 7pm yesterday, under which people (hereafter referred to as "persons subject to compulsory testing") within the specified "restricted area" in Tseung Kwan O (i.e. Tower 1 and Tower 2, Twin Peaks, Tseung Kwan O, excluding the shopping arcade thereat and Zenith Kindergarten & International Nursery) 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 had issued a compulsory testing notice yesterday to any person who had been present at the building for more than two hours from February 19 to March 4, 2022 to undergo compulsory testing on

or before March 6, 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 5) 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 "restricted area" in Tseung Kwan O 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 11pm yesterday. Around 840 people within the area had undergone testing, among which 20 cases tested preliminarily positive were found. The Centre for Health Protection of the Department of Health will arrange to follow up.

Regarding cases tested preliminarily positive in the specified "restricted area", the Government has provided additional food packs and disinfection products to these persons and their household members pending follow-up arrangement.

Moreover, the Government also assigned staff to visit around 370 households, among which 42 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.

Temporary closure of some post offices

Hongkong Post said today (March 5) that as some postal staff members have been confirmed as having COVID-19, the Tai Po Post Office is closed today. Aberdeen Post Office, Wyndham Street Post Office, Gloucester Road Post Office, Concorde Road Post Office, Kwun Tong Post Office, Tseung Kwan O Post

Office, Sai Kung Post Office, Ma On Shan Post Office, Fo Tan Post Office and Kwai Fong Post Office are closed until March 7.

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.

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.

Key statistics on service demand of A&E Departments and occupancy rates in public hospitals

The following is issued on behalf of the Hospital Authority:

During the winter surge, the Hospital Authority closely monitors the service demand of Accident and Emergency Departments and the occupancy rates in public hospitals. Key service statistics are being issued daily for public information. Details are in the appended table.