

SWD staff member tests preliminarily positive for COVID-19

The Social Welfare Department (SWD) today (February 9) said that a staff member of the Finance Branch has tested preliminarily positive for COVID-19.

The staff member had no contact with members of the public in her daily work. She worked on the 8th floor of Wu Chung House and performed duties today. 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 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 SWD offices on the 8th floor of Wu Chung House 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 finishes exercise on “restriction-testing declaration” in respect of specified “restricted area” in Mei Lam Estate, Sha Tin, and enforcement operation for breaches of compulsory testing notice (with photo)

The Government yesterday (February 8) 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 8pm, under which people (hereafter referred to as "persons subject to compulsory testing") within the specified "restricted area" in Sha Tin (i.e. Mei Fung House, Mei Lam Estate, Sha Tin, excluding Mei Lam Estate Property

Services Management Office, Hong Kong Elite Athletes Association, Hong Kong Paralympic Committee & Sports Association for the Physically Disabled, Onesiphorus Mei Lam Church Ltd. and Shop No. 1-6 on G/F) were required to stay in their premises and undergo compulsory testing. Persons subject to compulsory testing were required to stay in their premises until all such persons identified in the "restricted area" had undergone testing and the test results were mostly ascertained.

In addition, the Government issued a compulsory testing notice yesterday, requiring any person who had been present at the above building for more than two hours from January 23, 2022 to February 8, 2022, even if they were not present in the "restricted area" at the time when the declaration took effect, must undergo compulsory testing on or before February 10, 2022. The Government finished the compulsory testing exercise at around noon today and carried out enforcement action in the "restricted area" afterwards to verify that all people in the "restricted area" had undergone compulsory testing in accordance with the requirements of the relevant declaration and compulsory testing notice. The Government announced that the enforcement operation ended at around 2:30pm today.

In this exercise, the Housing Department, the Hong Kong Police Force and the Tobacco and Alcohol Control Office of the Department of Health mobilised around 290 staff to arrange for implementation of the declaration and enforcement actions for breaches of the compulsory testing notice issued earlier.

The Government delivered meal boxes to persons subject to compulsory testing and provided simple food for them, including canned food, instant noodles and corn soup, so as to facilitate the meal arrangements of persons subject to compulsory testing.

The Housing Department set up a hotline for people restricted by the declaration to make enquiries and seek assistance.

The Government thanks persons subject to compulsory testing for their support and understanding. With everyone's co-operation and efforts, coupled with the tireless efforts of the testing contractors, residents have been informed about their testing results by SMS notification. After finishing the compulsory testing exercise at around noon today, the Government took enforcement action in the "restricted area" immediately to verify that all people in the "restricted area" had undergone testing according to the requirements of the declaration and the compulsory testing notice. Persons who could present an SMS notification containing a negative test result as proof of having undergone the compulsory testing could leave the "restricted area" through the designated exit after providing personal information to a prescribed officer. The enforcement operation was completed at around 2.30pm. Test records of 732 persons subject to compulsory testing were checked. No person was found to have not undergone compulsory testing. Taking into account the above situation, the Secretary for Food and Health revoked the "restriction-testing declaration" in accordance with Cap. 599J (see attachment).

The Government reminded the households who have not answered the door to contact the Government for arrangement of testing as soon as possible after reading the notices put up by the Government, in the hope of eliminating the possible risk of further spread of the virus in the community.

The Government thanks all participating government staff and the testing agencies for their hard work. The Government is also grateful to those subject to compulsory testing for their support and understanding, and their full co-operation during this period in undergoing testing and waiting for the results at home.

The Government will seriously follow up on the compliance situation of the compulsory testing notices and the "restriction-testing declaration" by persons subject to compulsory testing. Any person who fails to comply with the compulsory testing notices commits an offence and may be liable to a fixed penalty of \$5,000. The person will 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 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.



Effective Exchange Rate Index

The effective exchange rate index for the Hong Kong dollar on Wednesday, February 9, 2022 is 95.3 (same as yesterday's index).

34th batch of applications approved for trials of green innovative transport technologies under New Energy Transport Fund

The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) today (February 9) announced its approval of the 34th batch of applications for the trials of green innovative transport technologies under the New Energy Transport Fund.

The 30 newly approved applications are for the trials of three electric vessels, four electric taxis, one electric light bus, eight single-deck electric buses and 20 electric light goods vehicles, involving a total subsidy of about \$26 million. The applications are from:

Asia Container Terminals Limited
Buttons International Limited
Chun Yan Management Limited
Chung Shing Taxi Limited
Concrete Services Limited
CSX World Terminals Hong Kong Limited
DS&LJ Investment Limited
Ever Success Enterprise Limited
Fong's Logistics Limited
Fu Ming Tyres Services Limited
Golden Smart International Travel Agency Limited
Hongkong International Terminals Limited
Jubilee Prime Limited
Kai Fat Harbour Cleaning Services Limited
L & T Success Company Limited
Luen Fat Eng.
Man Fung Auto Limited
Pet Sensei Limited
Sang Kee Building Maintenance Company Limited
Standard Glory Management Limited
Talent Scout Management Limited
The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts
Triangle Bus Limited
Wai Tak Engineering Limited
Wan Chong Company Limited
Wan Chun Development Investment Company Limited
Wash Your Pet Pet (Spa) Limited
Wholesome Company
Wing Ming (Car Rental) Company Limited
Yick Tung Engineering Co.

The latest approval brings the total number of trials being pursued

under the Fund to 256, with a total subsidy amount of about \$209 million.

At present, 163 approved trials under the Fund are already on trial. One hundred and twenty-two of them have completed the trials, involving 71 electric light goods vehicles, 11 single-deck electric buses, three electric taxis, three electric light buses, 47 hybrid light goods vehicles, 27 hybrid medium goods vehicles, 10 hybrid light buses, two single-deck hybrid buses, one solar air-conditioning system for a bus, four electric inverter air-conditioning systems for buses, one diesel-electric propulsion system for a ferry and one seawater scrubber for a ferry. The EPD will continue to upload the trial reports once completed to the Fund's website for public information.

The Government has put in place the Fund since March 2011 to subsidise the testing and encourage wider use of green innovative transport technologies for a variety of commercial transport tools including goods vehicles (including special purpose vehicles), taxis, light buses, buses, vessels, motorcycles, non-road vehicles (applicable to vehicle models approved by the Transport Department or the Airport Authority Hong Kong), or the aforesaid transport tools of charitable/non-profit-making organisations providing services to their clients. The technologies to be subsidised include new energy vehicles or vessels, conversion of in-use conventional vehicles or vessels to new energy vehicles or vessels, and after-treatment emission reduction devices or fuel-saving devices applicable to vehicles and vessels. Transport operators and charitable/non-profit-making organisations may apply for trying out different green innovative technology products subject to a maximum subsidy of \$10 million for each application and a total of \$12 million for each applicant.

For more information on the Fund and the approved applications, please visit the website of the Fund (www.epd.gov.hk/epd/english/environmentinhk/air/prob_solutions/new-energy-transport-fund.html) or call the enquiry hotline on 2824 0022.

TD staff member preliminarily tests positive for COVID-19

The Transport Department (TD) said today (February 9) that a transport officer has preliminarily tested positive for COVID-19.

The staff member concerned, who works at 14/F, South Tower, West Kowloon Government Offices, 11 Hoi Ting Road, Yau Ma Tei, does not have contact with the public in his daily work. He last went to work on January 28. He has been wearing face masks while performing duties in the office and observed other disease prevention measures.

The TD has conducted thorough cleaning and disinfection operations at the workplace concerned. Colleagues who had contact with the staff member concerned have been arranged to undergo COVID-19 testing according to the guidelines of the Centre for Health Protection of the Department of Health and will work from home while waiting for the results.

The TD will continue to strictly implement various disease prevention measures. Staff members are also reminded to pay attention to personal hygiene and to stay vigilant at all times. They should seek medical advice immediately if they feel unwell and inform the department accordingly.