

18 post offices to provide support service for real-name registration for SIM cards

The Government announced today (May 27) that service counters will be set up at 18 designated post offices starting next Monday (May 30) to assist individual users of pre-paid Subscriber Identification Module (SIM) cards who are in need of help to complete real-name registration in accordance with the Telecommunications (Registration of SIM Cards) Regulation. Users can also complete registration via retail shops, mobile applications or websites of the respective telecommunications operators.

According to the Regulation, all existing pre-paid SIM (PPS) card users are required to complete real-name registration on or before February 23, 2023. Otherwise the relevant PPS cards will be deactivated. Real-name registration is easy, convenient and fast. The Government appeals to all existing PPS card users to complete real-name registration for their PPS cards as soon as possible and not wait until the last moment before the deadline.

As a further support measure for individual PPS card users in need, the Government will set up service counters at 18 designated post offices (see Annex) starting next Monday to assist members of the public to complete real-name registration of their PPS cards. The service is free of charge. Members of the public requiring assistance should visit the designated post offices in person and bring along their Hong Kong identity cards, PPS cards to be registered and mobile phones capable of receiving SMS notifications. A user who is aged below 16 years old has to be accompanied by an adult aged 18 or above for completing the registration. The personal information of that adult will need to be registered at the same time. The designated post offices may, where necessary, introduce a daily quota for crowd control management so as to reduce social contact and prevent crowds from gathering.

As SIM service plan (SSP) users have already registered their personal particulars with their telecommunications operators, re-registration is not required unless they would like to switch to another telecommunications operator or subscribe to a new phone number.

Individual telecommunications operators will also send SMS notifications to PPS card users to remind them to complete real-name registration as soon as possible.

According to the Regulation, SIM cards, including SSP services and PPS cards issued from March 1, are required to have real-name registration completed before activation. Existing PPS card users are required to complete real-name registration on or before February 23, 2023, or those PPS cards will be deactivated after the aforementioned deadline. The

Real-name Registration Programme for SIM Cards is applicable to all SIM cards issued by telecommunications operators in Hong Kong to be used for local person-to-person communications (including SIM cards for voice, data and/or SMS services).

For details of the Real-name Registration Programme, please visit the website of the Office of the Communications Authority (OFCA) (www.ofca.gov.hk/simreg) or call OFCA's hotline (2961 6699).

Chief Executive-elect to receive instrument of appointment in Beijing

The Chief Executive-elect, Mr John Lee, will depart for Beijing tomorrow (May 28) and return on May 31 (Tuesday).

While in Beijing, Mr Lee will receive from the Central People's Government the instrument of appointment as the sixth-term Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China.

Accompanying Mr Lee will be the Private Secretary to the Chief Executive-elect, Ms Priscilla To, and the Press Secretary, Mr Alex Chan. Mrs Lee will also accompany Mr Lee on the trip.

Government continues to distribute free rapid antigen test kits to elderly persons till end of June

â€‹The Government has been distributing free rapid antigen test (RAT) kits to elderly persons aged 60 or above through various elderly service units since mid-April. In the light of the gradual relaxation of social distancing measures and the increase in social activities, the Government announced today (May 27) the extension of the distribution arrangement till the end of June, with a view to encouraging elderly persons to undergo voluntary RAT testing from time to time and monitor own health condition.

A total of around 6 million RAT kits have been distributed by the Government through relevant channels since the launch of the distribution

arrangement.

A spokesman for the Food and Health Bureau (FHB) said that given the high transmissibility of the Omicron mutant strain, members of the public must stay vigilant even though the epidemic situation has subsided a little recently, particularly elderly persons who have a higher COVID-19 infection risk. Making good use of RAT kits to conduct frequent testing allows early identification of infected persons, thereby achieving the goal of "early identification, early isolation and early treatment". This will help prevent the elderly from developing serious illness or even dying upon infection.

All elderly persons aged 60 or above (including members and non-members) may collect free RAT kits in person at the service units listed below. They should bring along any documents for proof of age, such as identification documents, Senior Citizen Cards or JoyYou Cards, for verification purposes. To allow more elderly persons to benefit from the distribution, only five sets of RAT kits in total will be provided each time. Recipients should not collect on behalf of other persons nor collect the RAT kits repeatedly on the same day.

- * [District Health Centres \(DHCs\) and DHC Expresses](#) under the Primary Healthcare Office of the FHB;
- * [District Elderly Community Centres/Neighbourhood Elderly Centres/Social Centres for the Elderly](#) subsidised by the Social Welfare Department (SWD);
- * [Elderly Health Centres](#) under the Department of Health; and
- * [District-based Chinese Medicine Clinics cum Training and Research Centres](#) (with visiting patients as the primary target recipients) operating on a tripartite collaboration model involving the Hospital Authority, non-government organisations and a local university.

"The supply of RAT kits is sufficient. There is no need for elderly persons to stockpile the RAT kits. To reduce the risk of infection, elderly persons should avoid collecting RAT kits from service units during peak hours if not attending medical consultation," the spokesman added.

The Day Care Centres/Units for the Elderly, Integrated Home Care Services Teams, Enhanced Home and Community Care Services Teams and Recognised Service Providers of the Pilot Scheme on Community Care Service Voucher for the Elderly subsidised by the SWD will continue to provide free RAT kits to their service users aged 60 or above.

The Government is also providing free COVID-19 nucleic acid testing service to all elderly people aged 60 or above at community testing centres (CTCs) and mobile specimen collection stations. No advance booking is needed for the elderly. For locations of the CTCs and mobile specimen collection stations, please browse www.communitytest.gov.hk.

Appointment of Chairman of Council of Hong Kong Metropolitan University

The Government announced today (May 27) that the Chief Executive has appointed Dr Conrad Wong Tin-cheung as the Chairman of the Council of Hong Kong Metropolitan University (HKMU) for a term of three years with effect from June 20, 2022.

The Chief Executive also appointed Mr Henry Tong Sau-chai and Mr Arnold Cheng Ka-kui as the Deputy Chairman and the Treasurer of the HKMU Council respectively for the same period.

The Secretary for Education, Mr Kevin Yeung, welcomed the appointments. "Dr Wong has served as Deputy Chairman of the Council since 2019. He has a strong commitment to serving the community and a solid track record of public service, including his past service on the Vocational Training Council as the Deputy Chairman. I am confident that with his breadth of experience in the education sector, he will competently lead HKMU from strength to strength," he said.

Mr Yeung also paid tribute to Mr Michael Wong Yick-kam, the outgoing Chairman of the HKMU Council. "Having served on the Council since 2006 and as Chairman since 2016, Mr Wong has spearheaded numerous initiatives to further the development of HKMU, including the retitling of the university, the commissioning of the Jockey Club Institute of Healthcare campus, and taking forward the HKMU (Zhaoqing) development project. Under his visionary leadership, HKMU celebrated its 30th anniversary and continued to evolve into a full-fledged comprehensive university offering students high-quality education and flexible learning pathways. The achievements of HKMU over the past years owe much to the contributions of Mr Wong," he said.

EPD launches public engagement on optimisation of EIAO process

A spokesman for the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) said today (May 27) the department will solicit views from members of the public on the optimisation of the environmental impact assessment (EIA) process stipulated under the Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance (EIAO), through two online public engagement forums and email.

The Chief Executive announced in the 2021 Policy Address that the Government will conduct a comprehensive review on the EIA process stipulated

under the EIAO. The EPD has briefed members of the Legislative Council Panel on Environmental Affairs (Annex 1) and the Advisory Council on Environment (Annex 2, English only) respectively this March on how the EIAO process could be enhanced with a view to optimising its process, enhancing its operational efficiency and focusing more on environmental outcomes.

The spokesman said the EPD will take on board the comments received in the review exercise.

The two online public engagement forums will be held on:

- June 8 (Wednesday) from 6.30pm to 8.30pm (conducted in English); and
- June 13 (Monday) from 6.30pm to 8.30pm (conducted in Cantonese)

Members of the public who are interested in attending can register on or before June 2 via the link:

docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeft5lvCYmD5ngK4-MsJfa0HlgyJ4RlDjRjsrr3esCSaJIPaA/viewform?usp=pp_url.

Public views and suggestions on the optimisation exercise can also be submitted on or before June 30 via email at eiao_review@epd.gov.hk.