

Support measures for frontline cleaning and security workers in transport sector

The Government fully recognises and appreciates the frontline cleaning and security workers who have been carrying out their duties with dedication during the pandemic. Further to the announcement on March 19 on the extension of the scope of the subsidy to the relevant workers under the sixth round of the Anti-epidemic Fund (AEF 6.0) and upon review of the actual situation of the frontline cleaning and security workers in the transport sector, the Transport and Housing Bureau today (May 4) announced the further extension of the coverage of the subsidy to provide the same monthly allowance of \$2,000 to the following frontline workers for a period of five months (from April to August 2022):

(i) Cleaning and security workers engaged by individual public transport operators (including the franchised bus operators, the MTR Corporation Limited, franchised and licensed ferry operators, Hong Kong Tramways Limited, green minibus operators and non-franchised bus operators) and their service contractors. It is estimated that around 5 000 persons could benefit; and

(ii) Cleaning and security workers employed by a company that is a licensee or franchisee of the Airport Authority Hong Kong (AA), or a company that is a holder of an operating permit issued by the AA, or the contractors of the aforesaid companies (excluding those who have already benefited from the support for airport staff in targeted groups or the Anti-epidemic Support Scheme for Environmental Hygiene and Security Staff in the Property Management Sector under AEF 6.0). It is estimated that around 6 000 persons could benefit.

In the interest of convenience and efficiency, the frontline workers concerned will not be required to submit individual applications. The subsidy will be disbursed to the employees through the above companies on a monthly basis. The total estimated expenditure for the above measures is about \$126 million. The Transport Department and the AA will soon be approaching the individual companies on the details of the arrangement.

Latest operation arrangements for Community Vaccination Centres

The Government announced today (May 4) that, in view of the demand for

COVID-19 vaccination and the utilisation of the Community Vaccination Centres (CVCs), the operation arrangements of the CVCs under the COVID-19 Vaccination Programme will be adjusted gradually starting from the middle of this month.

The latest arrangements are as follows:

(1) Starting from May 16, the Children Community Vaccination Centres (CCVCs) will open from 10am to 6pm daily. Starting from June 1, the opening hours of the CVCs will be from 10am and 6pm from Monday to Friday, and between 8am and 8pm on Saturdays and Sundays. They will be closed daily between 1.30pm and 2.30pm for cleaning.

(2) Five CVCs will be closed. The CVC at Loke Yew Hall, the University of Hong Kong, will provide service until May 22. The CVCs at Hong Kong Central Library, Kowloon Bay Sports Centre, Education Bureau Kowloon Tong Education Services Centre and Tsuen Wan Sports Centre will be closed on June 1.

(3) Starting from June 1, the CCVCs at Yuen Chau Kok Sports Centre in Sha Tin and Tsuen Wan Sports Centre will be relocated to the CUHK Medical Centre in Sha Tin and Osman Ramju Sadick Memorial Sports Centre in Kwai Chung respectively. In addition to providing the BioNTech vaccine to persons aged 12 or above, the CVCs at CUHK Medical Centre and Osman Ramju Sadick Memorial Sports Centre will also provide a proper BioNTech vaccine dosage to children aged 5 to 11.

(4) 21 CVCs (five providing the Sinovac vaccine and 16 providing the BioNTech vaccine) will continue to provide COVID-19 vaccination service to the public in June.

"The Government has set up 18 additional vaccination centres in the first quarter this year, making a total of 28 CVCs to cater for the public demand for vaccination. Currently, about 91 per cent of the population eligible for vaccination aged 3 or above have received the first vaccine dose, and 84 per cent in terms of the second dose. In addition, 47 per cent of those aged 12 or above have received their third dose. However, we notice that the demand for vaccination has decreased in the last few weeks. The latest seven-day moving average of the daily number of doses administered is around 27 200 only," a spokesman explained.

"Although certain CVCs will be open until the end of May, we will continue to boost the vaccination of the old and the young through various channels, and will closely monitor and assess the demand for vaccination. The Home Vaccination Service will also press ahead at full steam to provide free door-to-door Sinovac vaccination to unvaccinated elderly persons aged 70 or above, or persons with impaired mobility due to illness or physical disability," the spokesman stressed.

The designated website for the COVID-19 Vaccination Programme (www.covidvaccine.gov.hk/en/programme) provides the latest information including details on vaccination venues, reservation and enquiry hotlines.

CVCs providing the Sinovac vaccine for persons aged 3 or above

Java Road Sports Centre in North Point
Kwun Chung Sports Centre in Jordan
Yuen Wo Road Sports Centre in Sha Tin
Millennium City 5 in Kwun Tong
Hong Kong Spinners Industrial Building in Cheung Sha Wan
Hong Kong Central Library in Causeway Bay (until May 31)

CVCs providing the BioNTech vaccine for persons aged 12 or above

Sun Yat Sen Memorial Park Sports Centre in Sai Ying Pun
Boundary Street Sports Centre in Mong Kok
Sai Wan Ho Sports Centre
Hiu Kwong Street Sports Centre in Kwun Tong
Lai Chi Kok Park Sports Centre
Yuen Long Sports Centre
Osman Ramju Sadick Memorial Sports Centre in Kwai Chung
MTR Tsing Yi Station
CUHK Medical Centre in Sha Tin (no same-day tickets)
Satellite Community Vaccination Centre, Leighton Centre in Causeway Bay (no same-day tickets)
Loke Yew Hall, the University of Hong Kong in Pok Fu Lam (until May 22)
Pop-up CVC at 17th floor, Landmark North in Sheung Shui
Kowloon Bay Sports Centre (until May 31)
Education Bureau Kowloon Tong Education Services Centre (until May 31)
Tsuen Wan Sports Centre (until May 31)
Pop-up CVC at Caroline Hill Road in Causeway Bay (until June 30)

Vaccination centres providing the BioNTech vaccine for children aged 5 to 11

CCVC at Hong Kong Children's Hospital in Kowloon Bay
HKU CCVC at Gleneagles Hospital Hong Kong in Wong Chuk Hang
CCVC at Tsuen Wan Sports Centre (until May 31)
CCVC at Yuen Chau Kok Sports Centre in Sha Tin (until May 31)
CUHK Medical Centre in Sha Tin (from June 1)
Osman Ramju Sadick Memorial Sports Centre in Kwai Chung (from June 1)

Other channels for free COVID-19 vaccination include: Hospital COVID-19 Vaccination Stations, designated general out-patient clinics of the Hospital Authority, private doctors or clinics providing the Sinovac vaccine and venues operated by private healthcare institutions providing the BioNTech vaccine, etc.

LCQ3: Post-secondary institutions

Following is a question by Dr the Hon Chow Man-kong and a written reply

by the Secretary for Education, Mr Kevin Yeung, in the Legislative Council today (May 4):

Question:

Regarding post-secondary institutions, will the Government inform this Council:

(1) whether it knows the following information in respect of (a) 11 degree-awarding self-financing institutions (including institutions registered under the Post Secondary Colleges Ordinance (Cap. 320) and statutory institutions), (b) self-financing arms or community colleges under the eight universities funded by the University Grants Committee, and (c) post-secondary institutions registered under the Education Ordinance (Cap. 279) or other relevant legislation, in each of the past three school years: (i) the number of teaching staff, (ii) the number of students enrolled in sub-degree/higher diploma, undergraduate and postgraduate programmes, (iii) the amount of grants that were matched with public funds, and (iv) the amount of funding awarded under the Competitive Research Funding Schemes for the Local Self-financing Degree Sector (set out in tables of the same format as the table below);

Type of post-secondary institutions:

Institution	Self-financing arm or community college (applicable to type (b) institutions)	School year	(i)	(ii)	(iii)	(iv)

(2) of the total up-to-date number of projects receiving funding under the Enhancement and Start-up Grant Scheme for Self-financing Post-secondary Education, and set out in a table the following information in respect of each approved project: (i) institution, (ii) the industry/sector involved in the project, (iii) project name, (iv) offering mode (i.e. full-time or part-time), (v) grants approved, (vi) cost savings and percentage, (vii) the key areas for which the grants are used and (viii) the number of students benefitted; if there were rejected project applications, of the percentage of rejected projects in each round of application and the specific reasons for that;

(3) as it is learnt that currently there is a cap on the number of non-local students that publicly-funded institutions and self-financing institutions may admit, of the specific details, legal basis and specific considerations of the relevant requirements; if the requirements for the two types of institutions are different, of the reasons for that; the specific details of the implementation of the relevant requirements by various post-secondary institutions in each of the past three school years, and set out the number and percentage of non-local students by programme level;

(4) whether it will consider revoking or relaxing the cap on the number of non-local students (especially Mainland students) who may be admitted to

self-financing programmes offered by publicly-funded institutions and self-financing institutions; if so, of the details; if not, the reasons for that; and

(5) whether it will, in view of the strong demand for vocational education in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, consider revoking or relaxing the restrictions on the number of non-local students in self-financing programmes (especially sub-degree/higher diploma programmes related to vocational education and applied education) offered by self-financing institutions; if so, of the details; if not, the reasons for that?

Reply:

President,

It has all along been the Government's policy to support the parallel development of the publicly-funded and self-financing post-secondary education sectors. The self-financing sector helps diversify our higher education system and provides more education opportunities for our secondary school graduates. In pursuance of this policy, the Education Bureau (EDB) exercises oversight of the self-financing institutions focusing on ensuring their transparency of operation, quality assurance and good governance, while implementing a host of support measures to institutions as well as providing subsidies for students to promote a healthy and sustainable development of the self-financing sector.

In this connection, the EDB is proactively following up on the recommendations put forward by the Task Force on Review of Self-financing Post-secondary Education in its review report submitted in December 2018. These recommendations include fostering the strategic co-ordination among institutions in respect of their positioning and programme offerings, and helping institutions identify and develop their distinct character and niche areas, with a view to promoting the healthy and sustainable development of the self-financing sector. The EDB has also repeatedly reminded institutions of the need to consolidate their programmes in terms of both quality and quantity in view of the student recruitment challenges facing them as a result of the decline in the number of secondary school graduates. The EDB will continue to maintain liaison with relevant institutions regarding their future development.

Our reply to the questions raised by Dr the Hon Chow Man-kong is as follows:

(1) The numbers of academic staff members of self-financing post-secondary institutions by institution from the 2019/20 to 2021/22 academic years (AYs) are at Annex 1.

The numbers of students enrolled in full-time locally-accredited self-financing sub-degree (SD) and undergraduate (Ug) programmes by institution from the 2019/20 to 2021/22 AYs are at Annex 2.

The numbers of students enrolled in locally-accredited self-financing

research postgraduate (RPg) and taught postgraduate (TPg) programmes by institution from the 2019/20 to 2021/22 AYs are at Annex 3.

The seventh round of the Matching Grant Scheme (MGS) was held from August 2017 to July 2019 for applications from qualified self-financing local degree-awarding institutions. The amounts of matching grants allocated to participating institutions by institution are at Annex 4. The eighth round of the MGS from July 2019 to March 2021 did not cover self-financing post-secondary institutions.

The Competitive Research Funding Schemes for the Local Self-financing Degree Sector was launched in 2013 to support the academic and research development of the local self-financing degree-awarding sector on a competitive basis through the funding of the Research Endowment Fund. The amounts of funding allocated to participating institutions under the Schemes by institution from 2019/20 to 2021/22 are at Annex 5.

(2) In the 2020/21 inaugural round of applications of the Enhancement and Start-up Grant Scheme for Self-financing Post-secondary Education (ESGS), 22 applications were received and six projects were approved with a total grant of about \$137 million. The approved projects cover a range of sectors, including allied health, financial, art and innovative technology, as well as maritime studies, which are conducive to catering for the keen manpower demand of the relevant industries. Details of the approved projects are at Annex 6.

The EDB is processing the applications received in the 2021/22 round of applications in accordance with the procedures, and will announce the application results in due course.

Under the ESGS, the Committee on Self-financing Post-secondary Education (CSPE) will advise the Secretary for Education on the merits of the applications, having regard to the following:

- (a) whether a programme under application is able to nurture talent for a specific industry that has been identified with a strong human resources need/gap that has not been filled;
- (b) whether the programme under application is in line with the relevant institution's strategic positioning in the sector and its academic development plan; and
- (c) the programme design, costs, financial sustainability, student admission plan, and any other relevant factor.

The Secretary for Education will consider the recommendations of the CSPE and all relevant factors when making funding approval under the ESGS.

(3) to (5) Under the prevailing policy, the eight University Grants Committee (UGC)-funded universities may admit non-local students to publicly-funded Ug programmes by way of over-enrollment. The total number of non-local students so admitted is subject to a quota of 20 per cent of the approved student number target for publicly-funded Ug places. Moreover, non-local students are required to pay tuition fees at a level which is sufficient to recover the

costs for operating the relevant places. The same admission and tuition fee arrangements apply to publicly-funded SD and TPg programmes as well. In the 2019/20, 2020/21 and 2021/22 (provisional figures) AYs, the percentages of non-local students studying on publicly-funded programmes were 16.6 per cent, 16.9 per cent and 17.9 per cent of the approved student number targets for publicly-funded Ug places of that particular AY respectively, and the percentages for TPg programmes were 5.0 per cent, 4.6 per cent and 5.8 per cent respectively. There were no non-local students enrolled in publicly-funded SD programmes at the eight UGC-funded universities during the period. Statistics of non-local students studying on SD, Ug and TPg programmes at individual UGC-funded universities are set out at Annex 7. There is no quota restriction for the admission of non-local students to UGC-funded RPg programmes.

As regards self-financing post-secondary institutions, except students from the Mainland, Macao and Taiwan (MMT), there is no restriction on the admission of non-local students to full-time locally-accredited self-financing local SD, Ug, TPg, and RPg programmes. As for MMT students, currently, six local self-financing post-secondary institutions, namely, Chu Hai College of Higher Education, The Hang Seng University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong Shue Yan University, Hong Kong Metropolitan University, Tung Wah College, and Technological and Higher Education Institute of Hong Kong under the Vocational Training Council, have been approved by the Ministry of Education (MoE) to admit Mainland students to their full-time locally-accredited self-financing local degree programmes. Under the mechanism agreed by the MoE, the number of MMT students enrolled in full-time locally-accredited self-financing local SD and Ug (including top-up degree) programmes by these six specified self-financing institutions in each AY should not exceed 10 per cent of the total student enrolment in such programmes in the preceding AY. There is no quota restriction for postgraduate programmes. As regards SD programmes, there is currently no restriction on specified self-financing institutions, namely, all self-financing institutions may admit non-local students to their full-time locally-accredited self-financing local SD programmes, but the above-mentioned 10 per cent quota is still applicable.

The numbers of MMT students of full-time locally-accredited self-financing local SD and Ug programmes of self-financing post-secondary institutions as well as the respective percentages of the total student enrolments in such programmes in the preceding AY, by institution and level of study, from the 2019/20 to 2021/22 AYs, are at Annex 8.

The prevailing Government policy aims to attract outstanding non-local students to study in Hong Kong, thereby further promoting the internationalisation of Hong Kong's higher education sector and reinforcing Hong Kong's status as a regional education hub. At the same time, we hope to attract high-quality talents to work in Hong Kong to help relieve the current high demand for human resources. Maintaining an appropriate number for non-local students through the application of a quota can help strike a balance between achieving the policy objective of attracting outstanding talents to Hong Kong and maintaining the quality of teaching and learning as well as the

supply and demand of the related ancillary facilities (e.g. classrooms, laboratories and hostel places). To achieve the above policy objective, the Government and UGC keep in view the relevant data from time to time and consider appropriate adjustments to the non-local student quota as necessary. We also maintain close communication with the MoE on matters relating to encouraging students from the Mainland to study in Hong Kong.

Government makes “restriction-testing declaration” and issues compulsory testing notice in respect of specified “restricted area” in Cheung Tin House, Pak Tin Estate, Sham Shui Po

The Government today (May 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" (declaration) effective from 4.30pm under which people (hereafter referred to as "persons subject to compulsory testing") within the specified "restricted area" in Sham Shui Po (i.e. Cheung Tin House, Pak Tin Estate, Sham Shui Po. See Annex) are 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. The Government aims at finishing this exercise at about 10am tomorrow (May 5). The operation may be extended depending on test results.

A Government spokesman said, "Under Cap. 599J, the Government can, according to the needs of infection control, make a 'restriction-testing declaration'. Having reviewed a basket of factors, including the viral load in sewage, the information of relevant positive cases, and other circumstantial factors, and conducted a risk assessment, the Government decided to make a 'restriction-testing declaration' for the relevant area."

The Government will set up temporary specimen collection stations at the "restricted area" and request persons subject to compulsory testing to undergo testing before 9pm today. Arrangements will be made for persons subject to compulsory testing to undergo a nucleic acid test at specimen collection stations where dedicated staff will collect samples through combined nasal and throat swabs. Persons subject to compulsory testing must stay at their place of residence until all test results are ascertained to avoid cross-infection risk. The Government will make arrangement to facilitate specimen collection for people with impaired mobility. All persons

in the "restricted area" who have tested positive in the past three months, including positive cases identified either by nucleic acid tests recorded by the Department of Health (DH) or by rapid antigen tests that have been self-declared to the DH, are not required to undergo testing in this compulsory testing exercise.

The Government spokesman said, "We understand that this exercise will cause inconvenience to the public. The Government has made arrangements to carry out testing for all persons present in the 'restricted area' as soon as possible. The aim is to strive to complete testing of all identified persons subject to compulsory testing and confirm the results, and finish the exercise at about 10am tomorrow. The Government will make a public announcement when the declaration expires officially. In the cases in which employees are unable to go to work because of the declaration, the Government hopes their employers can exercise discretion and not deduct the salaries or benefits of the employees."

If staying in the "restricted area" will cause unreasonable hardship to individuals who are not residents in the area when the declaration takes effect, government officers may exercise discretion and allow that person to leave the area after considering the individual circumstances. That person must have followed the instructions to undergo testing and leave his/her personal information for contact purposes.

According to the compulsory testing notice to be issued today, any persons other than those specified above who had been present at the above building for more than two hours from April 28 to May 4, 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 May 6, 2022. As a mutant strain is involved, for prudence's sake, vaccinated persons and persons who have recently been tested are also required to undergo testing.

For the 2022 Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination (HKDSE) candidates who are within the "restricted area" and need to sit the HKDSE on the following day, or examination personnel who need to take up invigilation duties for HKDSE on the following day, the Government appeals to them to go to the temporary specimen collection stations setup within the "restricted area" before 8pm today and present to the prescribed officer the relevant documents (including the identification documents and HKDSE admission forms, or a certification letter issued by the school of the examination personnel) proving their identities. These HKDSE candidates and examination personnel will be given priority testing with a view to enabling them to obtain test results on the following day as early as possible. The priority testing arrangement also applies to the family members who live together with these HKDSE candidates and examination personnel, so as to identify those HKDSE candidates and examination personnel who have become close contacts of confirmed cases for making quarantine arrangement.

If any HKDSE candidate or examination personnel needs to leave the "restricted area" for the examination centre before the declaration is revoked, he/she can make a request to the prescribed officers within the "restricted area". The prescribed officer may allow the candidate or the

examination personnel to leave the "restricted area" after verifying his/her testing result(s) and recording the relevant information. For the safety of all candidates and examination personnel, only those candidates and examination personnel who have obtained negative test results will be allowed to enter the examination hall. For details, please read the relevant information issued by the Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority earlier

www.hkeaa.edu.hk/DocLibrary/HKDSE/PPT_2022DSE_compulsory_testing_arrangements_eng.pdf.

The Housing Department has set up a hotline (Tel: 2779 4153) which started operation at 4.30pm today for residents restricted by the declaration to make enquiries and seek assistance. The Social Welfare Department will also provide assistance to the affected persons.

The Government appeals to persons subject to compulsory testing for their full co-operation by registering and undergoing testing, and waiting for the results patiently at home. The Government will strictly follow up on whether the persons concerned have complied with the compulsory testing notices and "restriction-testing declaration". Any person who fails to comply with the compulsory testing notices commits an offence and may be fined a fixed penalty of \$10,000. 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 compulsory testing order or the "restriction-testing declaration" is an offence and the offender would be liable to a fine at level 5 (\$50,000) and imprisonment for six months.

[Hong Kong resident jailed for conspiracy to defraud and conspiracy to obtain services by deception](#)

A Hong Kong resident was charged with one count of conspiracy to defraud and one count of conspiracy to obtain services by deception. The defendant pleaded guilty to the charges at Sha Tin Magistrates' Courts today (May 4). He was sentenced to 12 months' imprisonment for each charge and the sentences are to run concurrently.

The 59-year-old defendant married a Mainland pregnant woman in Hong Kong in August 2019. Subsequently, the Mainland pregnant woman successfully obtained a Confirmation Certificate on Delivery Booking from a private hospital for delivery services by virtue of her marital relationship with the defendant. Due to doubts about the marital relationship between the defendant and the Mainland pregnant woman, an investigation against them was thus conducted.

During the investigation, the defendant admitted that under the arrangement of a middleman, he was paid \$20,000 as a monetary reward to contract a bogus marriage with the Mainland pregnant woman in order to enable her to obtain a Confirmation Certificate on Delivery Booking for delivery in Hong Kong. The Mainland pregnant woman finally could not give birth in Hong Kong.

An investigation of other suspects is continuing.

"The Immigration Department is concerned about the situation of non-local pregnant women seeking to give birth in Hong Kong by illegal means. While great efforts are made to identify doubtful cases and to intercept non-local pregnant women without a confinement booking at the control points, vigorous enforcement actions have also been taken to combat related immigration offences committed by non-local pregnant women and their abettors," an Immigration Department spokesman said.

The spokesman warned that conspiracy to defraud is a serious offence. Offenders are liable to prosecution and upon conviction, under the Crimes Ordinance, the maximum penalty is imprisonment for 14 years. Moreover, under the Theft Ordinance, a person who by any deception dishonestly obtains services from another shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable, upon conviction, to the maximum penalty of imprisonment for 10 years.