

CHP investigates three additional confirmed case of COVID-19

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health (DH) announced that as of 0.00am, May 15, the CHP was investigating three additional confirmed case of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), taking the number of cases to 11 822 in Hong Kong so far (comprising 11 821 confirmed cases and one probable case).

Among the newly reported cases announced, two are imported cases and one is a local case with unknown source. A total of 44 cases have been reported in the past 14 days (May 1 to 14), including seven local cases of which one is from an unknown source.

Subsequent to the announcement by the CHP on the updated quarantine arrangements of local COVID-19 cases with the N501Y mutant strain, the CHP reminded that persons who resided or worked within the same building as the residence of relevant cases and had been released from the quarantine centres will be subject to compulsory testing on days 3, 7, 12 and 19 following the announcement of the relevant confirmed cases by the DH. A Compulsory Testing Notice (CTN) was issued on May 7 (www.gld.gov.hk/egazette/pdf/202125124e/egn202125124278.pdf). They will also be required to undergo self-monitoring until the 21st day.

Specified persons in relation to the following specified premises are reminded to undergo compulsory testing in accordance with the CTN tomorrow:

- Block N2, Kornhill, 16 Hong On Street, Quarry Bay; and
- Royalton, 118 Pok Fu Lam Road, Pok Fu Lam.

Members of the public can check the deadlines of compulsory testing for respective specified premises as stipulated in the aforementioned CTN on the Government's website (www.coronavirus.gov.hk/pdf/CTN_Specified_premises_and_Dates_of_Testing.pdf).

In view of the latest epidemic development in some areas in Anhui Province and Liaoning Province, the list of medium or high risk area in the Mainland has been updated accordingly. With effect from today, inbound travellers who have been to Anhui Province in the past 14 days do not fulfill the relevant specified conditions under the Return2hk Scheme and they are required to undergo 14 days compulsory quarantine upon arrival and the relevant compulsory testing arrangement. Shortening of compulsory quarantine period for fully vaccinated persons will also not be applicable. Meanwhile, the same arrangement will also be applicable to inbound travellers who have been to Liaoning Province in the past 14 days, which will become effective from tomorrow (May 16). For details of the Return2hk Scheme, members of the public can visit the Government's website (www.coronavirus.gov.hk/eng/return2hk-scheme.html).

In view that the World Health Organization (WHO) has recently included

the variant B.1.617 as the fourth variant of concern (VOC), the Scientific Committee on Emerging and Zoonotic Diseases and the Scientific Committee on Vaccine Preventable Diseases under the Centre for Health Protection of the Department of Health, joined by the Chief Executive's expert advisory panel has updated the Consensus Interim Recommendations on the Quarantine requirements for Vaccinated Close Contacts of Locally acquired cases of COVID-19, to replace "N501Y mutant strain" with "key mutation(s) indicating possible VOC defined by WHO" .

Details of the updated interim recommendation are available at the CHP website (www.chp.gov.hk/en/static/24005.html).

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).

Meanwhile, the CHP reminded those who had visited specified venues under the Prevention and Control of Disease (Compulsory Testing for Certain Persons) Regulation (Cap. 599J) to receive COVID-19 nucleic acid testing according to the CTNs. The Regulation also requires all household members of close contacts of confirmed cases to undergo a COVID-19 nucleic acid test within a specified period according to CTNs published in the Gazette. The public are also urged to seek medical attention early if symptoms develop and undergo testing as soon as possible.

The Government has launched the COVID-19 Vaccination Programme. Members of the public are encouraged to get vaccinated. Details of the programme can be found at the designated website (www.covidvaccine.gov.hk).

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. 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.

The spokesman 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 and regularly pour water into drain outlets (U-traps). 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;
- 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.

[HAD to open temporary night heat](#)

shelters

The Home Affairs Department will open 19 temporary night heat shelters tonight (May 15) 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 –

Wah Kwai Community Centre
Wah Kwai Estate, Kellett Bay

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 North Park (Zone B) Activity Room
29 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 –
King Lam Neighbourhood Community Centre
King Lam Estate, Tseung Kwan O

Sha Tin –
Lung Hang Estate Community Centre
Lung Hang Estate, Sha Tin

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

Tsuen Wan –
Lei Muk Shue Community Hall
G/F, Hong Shue House, Lei Muk Shue 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

[Hong Kong Customs detects largest smuggling case so far this year \(with photos\)](#)

Hong Kong Customs yesterday (May 14) detected a suspected smuggling case using a fishing vessel and a speedboat in the waters off Hong Kong International Airport (HKIA). A large batch of suspected smuggled goods, including electronic products, high-value food and cosmetics, with an estimated market value of about \$50 million in total was seized. This is the largest smuggling case detected by Customs so far this year.

Officers yesterday conducted an anti-smuggling operation in the waters off HKIA and spotted several suspicious men moving suspected smuggled goods from a fishing vessel onto a speedboat. Officers then took action and the men immediately jumped onto the speedboat and fled.

During the operation, Customs officers detained a fishing vessel suspected to be in connection with the case for further investigation. A batch of suspected smuggled goods, including suspected amber, dried sea cucumbers, dried fish maws, dried shark fins, bird nests, computer display cards, smartphones, computer RAMs, solid-state drives, cosmetics, wine and liquor products as well as high-value handbags and apparel, was seized on board the vessel.

An investigation is ongoing.

Customs stresses that it would keep up its enforcement action and would continue to fiercely combat sea smuggling activities by proactive risk-management and intelligence-based enforcement strategies. Targeted anti-smuggling operations will also be mounted from time to time to land a solid blow against the activities.

Smuggling is a serious offence. Under the Import and Export Ordinance, any person found guilty of importing or exporting unmanifested cargo is liable to a maximum fine of \$2 million and imprisonment for seven years.

Members of the public may report any suspected smuggling activities to Customs' 24-hour hotline 2545 6182 or its dedicated crime-reporting email account (crimereport@customs.gov.hk).



[Free COVID-19 testing service provided for targeted groups at community testing centres](#)

The Food and Health Bureau (FHB) announced today (May 15) that the Government will continue to provide free COVID-19 testing service at

community testing centres (CTCs) for persons of the following targeted groups who have yet to complete a COVID-19 vaccination course or are unfit for vaccination because of health reasons. Eligible persons may continue to make booking online for free testing service at the CTCs.

Persons eligible for booking a free test every seven days

â-0 Staff of catering businesses and scheduled premises

â-0 Staff of quarantine hotels

Persons eligible for booking a free test every 14 days

â-0 Construction site personnel (including registered construction workers and other resident site personnel) *

â-0 Staff of public and private swimming pools / beaches

â-0 Staff of specified hotels

Other persons eligible for booking a free test

â-0 Working staff accompanying and receiving local group tours (including tourist guides, tour escorts, staff seeing off the groups, drivers of chartered tour coaches and crew of chartered ferries) *

(within seven days before the tour, and not more than one free test every seven days)

* With effect from May 24, (i) persons who are unfit to receive COVID-19 vaccination because of health reasons are required to present a relevant medical certificate; and (ii) persons who have received the first dose of COVID-19 vaccine should present relevant vaccination record (such as by downloading their electronic vaccination records or saving the printouts of their vaccination records to their mobile phones, or bringing along the printouts or copies of their vaccination records).

A spokesman for the FHB said, "The Government started to provide one-off free COVID-19 testing service to targeted groups at the CTCs through online booking last year. The response has been positive. In the light of the ongoing epidemic situation in Hong Kong, we consider it necessary to extend the relevant testing arrangements.

"Since the implementation of the COVID-19 Vaccination Programme at the end of February, as of yesterday, more than 1.13 million and over 0.75 million persons have received their first and second dose of vaccine respectively. Having considered the protection brought by the vaccination, the relevant staff member will no longer need to undergo regular testing after 14 days upon his or her completion of the necessary doses of vaccine.

"In view of the latest local epidemic development, including local cases involving mutant strains with unknown sources, the Government has adopted stringent testing measures, including requiring all foreign domestic helpers in Hong Kong to undergo two rounds of compulsory testing, and all residents in the buildings with cases involving mutant strains to undergo multiple compulsory tests. Since January this year, a total of some 11 million tests were conducted via various testing channels, marking an average of over 80 000 tests per day. Among which, construction site personnel, staff of

catering businesses and staff of scheduled premises have taken 870 000, 850 000 and 280 000 tests at the CTCs respectively. We need to reserve sufficient testing capacity at the CTCs to meet unexpected testing demand in an efficient and flexible manner for strengthening disease prevention and control in Hong Kong. For certain targeted groups, the free testing service offered at the CTCs will only be open to persons who are unfit to receive vaccination because of health reasons, or those who yet to receive the second dose of vaccine (hence not qualified for the exemption from regular testing).

"The free testing service at the CTCs for the aforementioned targeted groups will be available until end of June. We encourage persons of eligible targeted groups to actively receive free testing in order to safeguard their health and that of their families and co-workers. Eligible persons can choose a suitable time slot for testing taking into account their own needs. If they have symptoms, they should seek medical attention immediately and undergo free testing provided by the Government as instructed by a medical professional. They should not attend the community testing centres."

Eligible persons should make advance booking for the free testing service via the community testing centre booking system (www.communitytest.gov.hk). Those who have no appointment will need to pay for the testing service at \$240. With effect from May 24, construction site personnel and working staff of local group tours who are unable to present the aforementioned medical certificate or vaccination record will also have to pay for the testing service.

The CTCs open daily from 8am to 1.30pm and from 2.30pm to 8pm. Deep cleaning and disinfection will be conducted when the testing centres close in the afternoon and at night. When arriving at the CTCs at the designated time slot, eligible persons should present identity document used at the time of booking (such as Hong Kong identity card or passport) and the SMS booking confirmation. For verification purpose, construction site personnel should also present their construction worker registration card issued by the Construction Industry Council or a letter issued by their main contractor as an identity proof for them being the resident site personnel of the respective site.

Participants will be notified by SMS through their mobile phones if the test result is negative. Should any specimen be tested preliminary positive, it will be referred to the Public Health Laboratory Services Branch of the Department of Health (DH) for a confirmatory test. Confirmed cases will be followed up and announced by the Centre for Health Protection of the DH.

Apart from attending the CTCs for testing, citizens can continue to utilise other free testing channels provided by the Government, including attending mobile specimen collection stations (if service scope is applicable) for free testing. For details on testing means other than the CTCs, please refer to the following webpage: www.coronavirus.gov.hk/eng/early-testing.html.

The spokesman reiterated that receiving COVID-19 vaccination is the most

effective measure in the prevention and control of the epidemic which can help the public resume normal daily lives. Most people are fit for getting vaccinated, and currently all Hong Kong residents aged 16 or above are eligible for receiving free vaccination.

The Government will regularly review the coverage of testing for relevant targeted groups based on the latest epidemic risk assessment.

FEHD and Police raid unlicensed barbeque sites at Kau Wa Keng

The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) conducted a joint blitz operation with the Police last night (May 14) against barbeque sites involving in operating unlicensed food premises at Kau Wa Keng, Kwai Tsing District. Stringent enforcement actions on the requirements and directions under the Prevention and Control of Disease (Requirements and Directions) (Business and Premises) Regulation (Cap. 599F) (the Regulation) for catering business premises were also taken.

During the operation, the FEHD arrested one person and initiated procedure on prosecution for operating unlicensed food premises in one barbeque site, and seized relevant paraphernalia and 38 kilogrammes of barbeque food. Since January this year, the FEHD has initiated 23 prosecutions (including 13 arrests) against operators of barbeque sites involving in unlicensed food premises at Kau Wa Keng.

During the joint operation with the Police on March 26, the FEHD arrested two persons and initiated procedures on prosecution for operating unlicensed food premises in two barbeque sites at Kau Wa Keng, among them one person was also found violating the Regulation relating to the requirement that no more than four persons may be seated together at one table at catering premises. The defendant was convicted at Kowloon City Magistrates' Courts on May 12 and sentenced to four weeks' imprisonment and a fine of \$30,000 for operating unlicensed food premises, and sentenced to four weeks' imprisonment and a fine of \$10,000 for violating the requirement under the Regulation. The two sentences are to run concurrently.

A spokesman for the FEHD said, "The department will continue to take stringent enforcement actions against unlicensed food premises. According to the Food Business Regulation (Cap. 132X), anyone operating an unlicensed food business commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a maximum fine of \$50,000 and imprisonment for six months. A maximum fine of \$50,000 and imprisonment for six months, upon conviction, may also be imposed on catering premises operators for violating the Regulation."

The spokesman stressed that the FEHD will continue to step up

inspections at catering premises across the territory and conduct joint operations with the Police when necessary to ensure that catering business operators and members of the public strictly comply with relevant regulations. Stringent enforcement actions will be taken against offenders to minimise the risk of transmission of COVID-19 in catering premises.