

Result of Scriptwriting Incubation Programme (Phase One) under Film Development Fund announced

The following is issued on behalf of the Hong Kong Film Development Council:

The Scriptwriting Incubation Programme (SIP) introduced under the Film Development Fund has received an overwhelming response with nearly 1 550 applications. Assessment of Phase One of the competition has been completed and 45 works have been selected to enter Phase Two of the competition. Details of the selected works are in the Annex.

The Chairman of the Hong Kong Film Development Council, Dr Wilfred Wong, said, "It is very encouraging to see participants from the film sector and other different backgrounds presenting a wide spectrum of works for the competition. I look forward to seeing the shortlisted works develop further under the Programme and become quality screenplays in the next phase of the competition."

The SIP aims at identifying and nurturing local screenwriting talents and helping to incubate quality screenplays, thereby enhancing the quality of Hong Kong productions. With total funding of \$8 million, the SIP is being held in the form of a competition with multiple rounds. Funding support will be provided to the respective winners of the different phases. A maximum of 10 final winning screenplays will eventually be selected. Cumulatively, each of the final winning screenplays will be awarded a total amount of \$410,000.

Each of the shortlisted candidates entering Phase Two of the competition will be awarded a cash prize of \$30,000. They will also be invited to join a seminar to learn about techniques for treatment and screenplay writing. The shortlisted candidates are required to submit the treatments in Phase Two. Up to 25 works will then be shortlisted for entering Phase Three of the competition.

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

Red flags hoisted at some beaches

Attention TV/radio announcers:

Please broadcast the following as soon as possible:

Here is an item of interest to swimmers.

The Leisure and Cultural Services Department announced today (April 25) that due to big waves, red flags have been hoisted at Shek O Beach and Big Wave Bay Beach in Southern District, Hong Kong Island; and Clear Water Bay Second Beach in Sai Kung District. Beach-goers are advised not to swim at these beaches.

Government gazettes compulsory testing notice

The Government exercised the power under the Prevention and Control of Disease (Compulsory Testing for Certain Persons) Regulation (Cap. 599J) and published in the Gazette a compulsory testing notice, which requires any person who had been present at five specified premises during the specified period (persons subject to compulsory testing) to undergo a COVID-19 nucleic acid test.

Currently, in all districts in Hong Kong, if one or more new confirmed cases are found in the residential buildings (including buildings for both commercial and residential uses), or there are sewage samples tested positive, or there are other factors which implied possible infection risks, the buildings will be included in the compulsory testing notice. For testing targeting at workplaces, if one or more confirmed cases are found in a workplace, it will be included in the compulsory testing notice.

In view of the confirmed cases announced today (April 24), three premises fulfilling the above criteria and one school are included in the compulsory testing notice. Among them, a specified premise is related to a

local confirmed case with unknown sources of infection involving N501Y mutation strain. In addition, since there was an outbreak of upper respiratory tract infection (URTI) in a school, and the symptoms of URTI are similar to those of COVID-19, for prudence's sake, the school is also covered in the compulsory testing notice.

Details of the compulsory testing notice are at Annex 1.

A spokesman for the Food and Health Bureau reminded the public that in accordance with the compulsory testing notice issued earlier, all household members of close contacts are required to undergo compulsory testing. Any person who had lived with a person placed under quarantine pursuant to section 22 of the Prevention and Control of Disease Regulation (Cap. 599A) (person under quarantine) in the same residential unit on the date of commencement of quarantine or during the 14 days before that day, and who becomes aware of the quarantine of the person under quarantine when the relevant quarantine has not yet been completed, has to undergo testing within two days of him or her becoming aware that the person under quarantine has been placed under quarantine and report to the Government the result of the test by phone (at 6275 6901), fax (at 2530 5872) or email (ct@csb.gov.hk) within three days of undergoing the test.

The Government has set up a mobile specimen collection station at Gloucester Road Garden (outside Immigration Tower) in Wan Chai today for persons subject to compulsory testing, and will set up a mobile specimen collection station at Hiu Kwai House of Kwai Chung Estate tomorrow (April 25) for persons subject to compulsory testing.

The service period of the mobile specimen collection stations at King George V Memorial Park, Kowloon, Arthur Street Temporary Playground in Yau Ma Tei, MacPherson Playground in Mong Kok, Hankow Road in Tsim Sha Tsui, Granville Road in Tsim Sha Tsui East, Sha Tsui Road Playground in Tsuen Wan, On Hing Playground in Yuen Long, Tin Shui Sports Centre in Tin Shui Wai and Kin Sang Community Hall in Tuen Mun will be extended to May 3 (Monday).

The opening dates and operating hours of the mobile specimen collection stations in various districts providing free COVID-19 nucleic acid testing services for the general public are stated in Annex 2. Apart from mobile specimen collection stations, persons subject to compulsory testing can also choose to attend any of the community testing centres in all districts to receive testing free of charge. Persons with "LeaveHomeSafe" COVID-19 exposure notification or SMS notification from the Centre for Health Protection reminding them to undergo testing as soon as possible may receive free testing at community testing centres or mobile specimen collection stations (if service scope is applicable).

Persons subject to compulsory testing may choose to undergo testing via the following routes:

1. To visit any of the mobile specimen collection stations (see the list and target groups (if applicable) at www.coronavirus.gov.hk/eng/early-testing.html) for testing;

2. To attend any of the community testing centres (see the list at www.communitytest.gov.hk/en);
3. To obtain a deep throat saliva specimen collection pack from any of the 121 post offices, vending machines set up at 20 MTR stations or 47 designated general outpatient clinics (GOPCs) of the Hospital Authority and return the specimen to one of the designated specimen collection points (see the distribution points and times, and the specimen collection points and times, at www.coronavirus.gov.hk/eng/early-testing.html);
4. To undergo testing at any of the GOPCs of the Hospital Authority as instructed by a medical professional of the Hospital Authority;
5. To self-arrange testing provided by private laboratories which are recognised by the Department of Health (DH) and can issue SMS notifications in respect of test results (see the list at www.coronavirus.gov.hk/pdf/List_of_recognised_laboratories RTPCR.pdf); or
6. To use a specimen bottle distributed to the relevant specified premises by the Centre for Health Protection (if applicable), and return the specimen bottle with the sample collected as per relevant guidelines.

The spokesman cautioned that testing received at Accident and Emergency Departments of the Hospital Authority or during hospital stays, or testing provided by private laboratories which cannot issue SMS notifications in respect of test results, does not comply with the requirements of the aforementioned compulsory testing notice.

"If persons subject to compulsory testing have symptoms, they should seek medical attention immediately and undergo testing as instructed by a medical professional. They should not attend the mobile specimen collection stations or the community testing centres."

Persons subject to compulsory testing must keep the SMS notification containing the result of the test for checking by a law enforcement officer when the officer requires the persons to provide information about their undergoing the specified test.

Furthermore, persons subject to testing under the compulsory testing notices should, as far as reasonably practicable, take appropriate personal disease prevention measures including wearing a mask and maintaining hand hygiene, and, unless for the purpose of undergoing the specified test, stay at their place of residence and avoid going out until the test result is ascertained as far as possible.

Any enquiries on compulsory testing arrangements may be addressed to the hotline at 6275 6901, which operates daily from 9am to 6pm. If persons subject to compulsory testing plan to conduct testing at any of the community testing centres, they can check the centre's appointment status in advance. The hotlines of the community testing centres are available at www.communitytest.gov.hk/en/info.

The Government will continue to trace possibly infected persons who had been to the relevant premises, and seriously verify whether they had complied with the testing notices. Any person who fails to comply with the testing notices commits an offence and may be fined a fixed penalty of \$5,000. 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 order is an offence and the offender would be liable to a fine at level 4 (\$25,000) and imprisonment for six months.

Relevant officers of different government departments are empowered to perform certain functions under the relevant Regulations under the Prevention and Control of Disease Ordinance (Cap. 599), including requesting individuals to provide information and assistance when necessary. Any person who fails to comply with the relevant request commits an offence and would be liable to a fine at level 3 (\$10,000). Collection and use of any personal data for conducting COVID-19 tests must meet the requirements under the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance (Cap. 486). Government departments or testing service providers which handle the relevant information may provide the data to the DH or other relevant departments for anti-epidemic purposes as necessary. The workflow does not involve the provision of any personal data to organisations or persons outside Hong Kong.

The spokesman said, "The Government urges all individuals who are in doubt about their own health conditions, or individuals with infection risks (such as individuals who visited places with epidemic outbreaks or contacted confirmed cases), to undergo testing promptly for early identification of infected persons."

[COVID-19 Vaccination Programme statistics](#)

The COVID-19 Vaccination Programme has been implemented for the 58th day since February 26, 2021.

So far, about 1 253 200 doses of COVID-19 vaccines have been administered for members of the public (please see Annex 1). Among them, about 828 300 persons have received their first dose, with about 401 700 persons receiving the Sinovac vaccine and about 426 600 persons receiving the BioNTech vaccine. About 424 800 persons have received their second dose, with about 275 100 persons receiving the Sinovac vaccine and about 149 700 persons receiving the BioNTech vaccine.

In the last 24 hours ending at 8pm today (April 24), about 30 100 persons have received vaccination and about 14 400 new vaccination bookings have been made online, detailed as follows:

(i) About 4 500 persons received their first dose of the Sinovac vaccine, including about 3 200 persons vaccinated at Community Vaccination Centres (CVCs) and about 1 300 persons at private doctors and clinics participating in the programme;

(ii) about 8 500 persons received their second dose of the Sinovac vaccine, including about 6 800 persons vaccinated at CVCs and about 1 700 persons at private doctors and clinics;

(iii) about 17 000 persons received their first dose of the BioNTech vaccine at CVCs, and about 100 persons received their second dose of the BioNTech vaccine;

(iv) the overall percentage of people who have received the Sinovac vaccine at CVCs is about 97 per cent; while the overall percentage of people who have received the BioNTech vaccine at CVCs is about 96 per cent; and

(v) about 3 500 persons have made online bookings for receiving their first and second doses of the Sinovac vaccine, while about 10 900 persons have made online bookings for receiving their first and second doses of the BioNTech vaccine.

In the last 24 hours ending at 0.00am today, there were seven cases of ambulance transfers to hospitals. Among them, two persons were discharged, two persons were admitted for observation and three persons were discharged against medical advice (please see Annex 2).

As background information, in the last 24 hours ending at 0.00am today, there were 57 cases of stroke or myocardial infarction that required admission to the Intensive Care Unit, Acute Stroke Unit and Cardiac Care Unit of public hospitals. The state of new cases admitted to the wards concerned is provided as a cross reference to enhance fuller public understanding of cases of the kind recorded on vaccine recipients.