

COVID-19 Vaccination Programme statistics

The COVID-19 Vaccination Programme has been implemented for the 48th day since February 26, 2021.

So far, about 951 000 doses of COVID-19 vaccines have been administered for members of the public (please see Annex 1). Among them, about 632 300 persons have received their first dose, with about 359 400 persons receiving the Sinovac vaccine and about 272 900 persons receiving the BioNTech vaccine. About 318 700 persons have received their second dose, with about 177 400 persons receiving the Sinovac vaccine and about 141 300 persons receiving the BioNTech vaccine.

In the last 24 hours ending at 8pm today (April 14), about 32 100 persons have received vaccination and about 17 000 new vaccination bookings have been made online, detailed as follows:

- (i) About 3 900 persons received their first dose of the Sinovac vaccine, including about 1 800 persons vaccinated at eight Community Vaccination Centres (CVCs) and about 2 100 persons at private doctors and clinics participating in the programme;
- (ii) about 11 800 persons received their second dose of the Sinovac vaccine, including about 8 300 persons vaccinated at the CVCs and about 3 500 persons at private doctors and clinics;
- (iii) about 13 000 persons received their first dose of the BioNTech vaccine at 21 CVCs, and about 3 400 persons received their second dose of the BioNTech vaccine;
- (iv) the overall percentage of people who have received the Sinovac vaccine at the eight CVCs is about 97 per cent; while the overall percentage of people who have received the BioNTech vaccine at the 21 CVCs is about 95 per cent; and
- (v) about 4 400 persons have made online bookings for receiving their first and second doses of the Sinovac vaccine, while about 12 600 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 10 cases of ambulance transfers to hospitals. Among them, nine persons were discharged and one person was admitted for observation (please see Annex 2).

As background information, in the last 24 hours ending at 0.00am today, there were 47 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.

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 two specified premises during the specified period (persons subject to compulsory testing) to undergo a COVID-19 nucleic acid test.

One residential building and one school are included in the compulsory testing notice today (April 14). Among them, Oi Fai House (Block 3) of Yau Oi Estate, 10 Yau Oi Road, Tuen Mun was included in the compulsory testing notice on April 7, 2021. Since a number of confirmed cases were found in the building over a short period of time, and it is possible that the incubation period of the virus could be long, the relevant persons have to undergo a second test. Also, since there was an outbreak of upper respiratory tract infection (URTI) in a nursery 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 as follows:

1. Any person who had been present at any specified premises listed in Part A of Annex 1 for more than two hours at any time during the period from March 25 to April 14, 2021 (including but not limited to residents, visitors and workers), has to undergo testing by April 16, 2021.
2. Any person who had been present at any specified premises listed in Part B of Annex 1 for more than two hours at any time during the period from April 1 to April 14, 2021 (including but not limited to full-time, part-time and relief staff, students and visitors), has to undergo testing by April 16, 2021. If persons subject to compulsory testing choose to undergo testing using the specimen bottles distributed by the Centre for Health Protection (CHP), they have to return the specimen bottle with the sample by April 18, 2021. If persons subject to compulsory testing have previously undergone testing between April 12 and April 14, 2021, they would be taken to have complied with the requirements set out in the compulsory testing notice.

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 will re-open the mobile specimen collection station at Oi Fai House of Yau Oi Estate in Tuen Mun tomorrow (April 15) for residents and workers of Oi Fai House. From April 17 (Saturday), the mobile specimen collection station at Sha Tin Park will be relocated to Plaza of Sha Tin Town Hall (near New Town Plaza), and will be open for testing by staff of catering premises and designated scheduled premises under Cap. 599F, as well as local residents and workers subject to compulsory testing.

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 across the territory 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 the 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 CHP (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."

HKSAR government clarifies eligibility of Principal Official, specified officer, or civil servant to be registered as ex-officio member of Election Committee

The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government today (April 14) clarifies the eligibility of Principal Official, specified officer, or any other civil servant who is holding specified office in his official capacity to be registered as ex-officio member of the Election Committee as follows:

Pursuant to the proposed amendments to section 5L of the Schedule to Chief Executive Election Ordinance (Cap. 569) under the Improving Electoral System (Consolidated Amendments) Bill 2021 (the Bill), a person is ineligible to be registered as an ex-officio member of the Election Committee if: he is (1) a Principal Official of the Government, (2) a directorate officer of the Government, (3) an administrative officers of the Government, (4) an information officer of the Government, (5) a police officer, or (6) any other civil servant who is holding a specified office in his official capacity. Under such circumstances, the specified persons may designate another person (the designated person) who is holding an office in a relevant body to be registered as the ex-officio member. The validity of the designated person's registration will also need to be determined by the Candidate Eligibility Review Committee. Hence, the relevant media report which states that certain Government officials will be registered as ex-officio members of the Election Committee by virtue of holding certain specified office was consistent with the proposal put forth in the Bill.

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Hong Kong Customs seizes suspected cannabis buds and arrests two adolescents (with photos)

Hong Kong Customs seized about 1 kilogram of suspected cannabis buds with an estimated market value of about \$270,000 at Hong Kong International Airport on April 12. Two adolescents involved in the case were arrested yesterday (April 13) and today (April 14).

Through risk assessment, Customs officers selected for inspection an air

consignment, declared as containing pillows, snacks and clothes, from Canada. Upon examination, Customs officers found the batch of suspected cannabis buds concealed inside two pillows.

After follow-up investigation, Customs officers yesterday and today arrested two males, aged 15 and 16, suspected to be in connection with the case. Both of them have declared themselves to be students.

Investigation is ongoing.

Customs appeals to parents to keep an eye on their children's friends in order to prevent children from taking part in drug trafficking activities under peer influence.

Customs also reminds members of the public to stay alert and not to participate in drug trafficking activities for monetary returns. They must not accept hiring or delegation from another party to carry controlled items into and out of Hong Kong. They are also reminded not to carry unknown items for other people, nor to release their personal data or home address to others for receiving parcels or goods.

Under the Dangerous Drugs Ordinance, trafficking in a dangerous drug is a serious offence. The maximum penalty upon conviction is a fine of \$5 million and life imprisonment.

Under the Ordinance, cannabis and tetrahydro-cannabinol (THC) are classified as dangerous drugs. Importation of products (including food or drinks) containing cannabis or THC into Hong Kong is prohibited unless the relevant provisions in the Ordinance are complied with. In order to avoid breaching the law inadvertently, special attention should be paid to the packaging labels of those products.

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

