

Government to gazette compulsory testing notice

The Government will exercise the power under the Prevention and Control of Disease (Compulsory Testing for Certain Persons) Regulation (Cap. 599J) and publish in the Gazette a compulsory testing notice, which requires any person who had been present at one 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 which implied possible infection risks, the buildings will be included in the compulsory testing notice.

One premises fulfilling the above criteria will be included in the compulsory testing notice.

Details of the compulsory testing notice are as follows:

Any person who had been present at Grand Court, 6 Babington Path, Central and Western District for more than two hours at any time during the period from March 8 to March 21, 2021 (including but not limited to visitors, residents and workers), have to undergo testing by March 24, 2021. If persons subject to compulsory testing have previously undergone testing between March 19 and March 21, 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 reminds 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 who is 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, have to undergo testing within two days of he/she becoming aware of 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 service period of the mobile specimen collection stations at the carpark of Quarry Bay Community Hall and 557 Shanghai Street, Mong Kok (opposite to Langham Place) will be extended to March 23 (Tuesday) and March 28 (Sunday) respectively. The service period of the mobile specimen collection station at 100 Granville Road, Tsim Sha Tsui East will be extended to March 26 (Friday), and the station will be open to all members of the

public for 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 the Annex. 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 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 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 DH or other relevant departments for anti-epidemic purpose 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."

Statistics for COVID-19 Vaccination Programme

â€‹The COVID-19 Vaccination Programme has been implemented for 24 days since February 26.

In the past 24 hours ending at 8pm today (March 21), the following

figures were recorded:

(i) About 9 100 persons received their first dose of Sinovac vaccine, including about 8 600 persons vaccinated at eight Community Vaccination Centres (CVCs) and about 500 persons at private doctors and clinics participating in the programme; and

(ii) About 14 700 persons received their first dose of BioNTech vaccine at 19 CVCs.

(iii) A total of about 23 800 persons received their first dose of vaccine.

The overall percentage of people who have received Sinovac vaccine at eight CVCs today is about 82 per cent, while the overall percentage of people who have received BioNTech vaccine at 19 CVCs today is about 93 per cent.

So far, a cumulative total of about 354 400 persons have received their first vaccination dose (Annex 1), with about 233 700 persons receiving Sinovac vaccine and about 120 700 persons receiving BioNTech vaccine.

As of 8pm today, about 4 100 persons had reserved their first and second doses of the Sinovac vaccine online in the past 24 hours, while about 9 400 persons had reserved their first and second doses of the BioNTech vaccine online.

In the past 24 hours ending at 0000 hours today, there were 13 cases of ambulance transfer to hospital. Among them, 11 persons were discharged and two persons were admitted for observation (Annex 2).

Meanwhile, as background information, in the past 24 hours ending at 0000 hours today, there were 37 cases of stroke or myocardial infarction that required admission to Intensive Care Unit, Acute Stroke Unit and Cardiac Care Unit in public hospitals. This figure is the actual total number of new cases admitted to concerned wards due to stroke or myocardial infarction and serves as a cross reference for the general public to comprehend the unwell cases.

Speech by SJ at Final Announcements of 18th Willem C. Vis (East) International Commercial Arbitration Moot (Virtual) (English only)

Following is the speech by the Secretary for Justice, Ms Teresa Cheng, SC, at the Final Announcements of the 18th Willem C. Vis (East) International Commercial Arbitration Moot (Virtual) today (March 21):

Good day to all of you. It must have been an exciting week! I would like to congratulate all the teams who have made their way to the final round, and thank the Vis East Moot Foundation and everyone for making this 18th Willem C. Vis (East) International Commercial Arbitration Moot (Moot) a successful event. My heartfelt thanks to the Foundation for holding the Moot in Hong Kong again for about 1 000 participants and about 300 arbitrators from around the world. We hope that Hong Kong would continue to serve as the host city for the Moot in the coming years.

I recall thanking the Foundation last year for taking a bold lead in the moot's history to hold an online international arbitration moot competition. Being the first event of its kind, the virtual Moot exposed not only the organiser to new challenges but also the participants, arbitrators and coaches. As normal as this might seem today, it would have been inconceivable just a year ago.

The outbreak of COVID-19 has caused numerous changes to businesses almost across all the industries, and the legal and dispute resolution sector has not been immune. In times of social distancing, technology has become our lifesavers in maintaining stable operations when physical meetings and hearings are not an option. Among others, online dispute resolution (ODR) has undergone rapid development globally during such trying times. While the new normal settles upon us, there is no going back and it is believed that the use of technology is going to be sustained and thrive post-pandemic.

Indeed, the Government always attaches great importance to LawTech in using technologies to provide legal services, which is in line with the global trend. Hong Kong, China has opted into the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) ODR Framework last April and also signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the APEC Secretariat on March 5 this year to establish a Fund for capacity building work on strengthening economic legal infrastructure. Moreover, we have launched the COVID-19 ODR Scheme in Hong Kong last year, which is operated by eBRAM Centre, to provide ODR services (including e-negotiation, e-mediation, and e-arbitration) for the resolution of COVID-19 related disputes, with the costs of mediators and arbitrators fully subsidised by the Government. This year, to promote the sustainable development of LawTech, the Department of Justice is actively exploring the development of Hong Kong Legal Cloud to provide safe, secure and affordable data storage services, with a view to enhancing the capability of the profession to harness modern technology in the provision of legal and dispute resolution services.

We also support further development of LawTech, not just in Hong Kong but also internationally. As a new initiative, we have just established a Department of Justice Project Office for Collaboration with UNCITRAL to study legal issues relating to the increasing use of emerging technology and have set up the Inclusive Global Legal Innovation Platform (iGLIP) on ODR, composing experts around the world, to facilitate studies on ODR related issues.

Lastly, I would like to once again, thank the Foundation and all volunteers for their efforts and devotion in organising the Moot. The Moot

this year again provides a wonderful learning experience of virtual hearings for the arbitration community and students, which I am sure will benefit them in their present or future real-life practice. Congratulations to all of you for taking part in the Moot. I hope you all a very fruitful and exciting experience. Thank you very much.

Public hospitals daily update on COVID-19 cases

The following is issued on behalf of the Hospital Authority:

As at 9am today (March 21), 12 COVID-19 confirmed patients were discharged from hospital in the last 24 hours. So far, a total of 10 875 patients with confirmed or probable infection have been discharged.

At present, there are 648 negative pressure rooms in public hospitals with 1 184 negative pressure beds activated. A total of 263 confirmed patients are currently hospitalised in 19 public hospitals and the North Lantau Hospital Hong Kong Infection Control Centre, among which 10 patients are in critical condition, 10 are in serious condition and the remaining 243 patients are in stable condition.

The Hospital Authority will maintain close contact with the Centre for Health Protection to monitor the latest developments and to inform the public and healthcare workers on the latest information in a timely manner.

Details of the above-mentioned patients are as follows:

Patient condition	Case numbers
Discharged	9030, 9701, 10922, 11046, 11092, 11113, 11117, 11121, 11152, 11176, 11187, 11278
Critical	1989, 3496, 6607, 6794, 8018, 8078, 9612, 9907, 10358, 10942
Serious	6386, 7468, 8221, 9055, 9135, 10367, 10585, 10984, 11040, 11055

CHP investigates eight additional confirmed cases of COVID-19

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health (DH) announced that as of 0.00am, March 21, the CHP was investigating eight additional confirmed cases of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), taking the number of cases to 11 380 in Hong Kong so far (comprising 11 379 confirmed cases and one probable case).

Among the newly reported cases announced, three are imported cases, one is local case with unknown sources, one case is epidemiologically linked with an imported case while the remaining three cases are epidemiologically linked with local cases.

A total of 297 cases have been recorded in the past 14 days (March 7 to 20), including 233 local cases of which 49 are from unknown sources.

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 compulsory testing notice. 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 compulsory testing notices 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.