

Tender period extended for Tung Chung New Town Extension – Major Infrastructure Works in Tung Chung East

The Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD) today (March 5) announced that the tender period for the contract for Tung Chung New Town Extension – Major Infrastructure Works in Tung Chung East (Contract No. NL/2020/03) has been extended to noon on March 26.

The CEDD invited tenders for the contract on December 31, 2020. The tender period was originally scheduled to expire at noon on March 12, 2021.

The extension of the tender period was gazetted today. Details of the tender notice are available at the CEDD's website (www.cedd.gov.hk/eng/tender-notice/contracts/tender-notice/index.html).

The CEDD has appointed AECOM Asia Company Limited as the consultant to design and supervise the works. For enquiries, please call the company at 3922 9000 during office hours.

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

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 six specified premises during the specified periods (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.

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.

Six buildings fulfilling the above criteria were included in the compulsory testing notice today (March 4). Among them, since there was staff confirmed positive in Hung Fuk House, 45-51 Fuk Wa Street, Sham Shui Po, residents, visitors and workers of the building would possibly be subject to higher infectious risks and are required to undergo compulsory testing. In addition, the Government published on February 27, 2021 a compulsory testing notice on K11 Musea, Victoria Dockside, 18 Salisbury Road, Yau Tsim Mong. As a number of confirmed cases were recently found there within a short period of time and it is possible that the incubation period of the virus could be long, the relevant staff of the site have to undergo a second test.

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 February 19 to March 4, 2021 (including but not limited to visitors, residents and workers), have to undergo testing by March 6, 2021. If persons subject to compulsory testing have previously undergone testing between March 2 and March 4, 2021, they would be taken to have complied with the requirements set out in the compulsory testing notice.
2. Any person who had been engaged to work or had been on duty (including full-time, part-time and relief staff) at any specified premises listed in Part B of Annex 1 at any time during the period from February 14 to March 4, 2021, have to undergo testing by March 6, 2021. If persons subject to compulsory testing have previously undergone testing between March 3 and March 4, 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 Government will set up mobile specimen collection stations at Elegance Gardens in Tuen Mun and K11 Musea in Tsim Sha Tsui tomorrow (March 5) for local residents and/or workers subject to compulsory testing. The service period of the mobile specimen collection stations at Residence Oasis in Tseung Kwan O and Butterfly Bay Community Centre in Tuen Mun will be extended to March 6 (Saturday) and March 12 (Friday) respectively, and that of the stations at King George V Memorial Park, Kowloon, On Hing Playground in Yuen Long and Tin Shui Sports Centre in Tin Shui Wai will be extended to March 14 (Sunday). 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 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."

[Hong Kong's Finance Story: Our strengths as a comprehensive international financial centre highlighted to business community in Singapore \(with photos\)](#)

The Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office (HKETO) in Singapore organised a webinar today (March 4) titled "Our Finance Story: Hong Kong, Greater Bay Area and the World", presented by the Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury, Mr Christopher Hui.

Starting off his presentation by updating the business community in Singapore on Hong Kong's latest financial situation, Mr Hui highlighted that as a leading international financial centre well-equipped with robust policy and regulatory frameworks as well as ample fiscal buffers, Hong Kong has been able to safeguard financial stability and weather the challenges brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The strong performance in the securities market and continued inflow of capital are testimony to the fact that the city's competitiveness and resilience in the financial markets has only gone from strength to strength," Mr Hui said.

With these in mind, Mr Hui expressed regret over the Heritage Foundation removing Hong Kong from its annual Index of Economic Freedom, describing the cited reason of Hong Kong's economic policies being controlled by Beijing as groundless and unjustified. "Hong Kong remains one of the freest economies welcoming businesses and investors from all over the world. The removal of Hong Kong is politically-driven and the credibility of the Index will be more to lose," Mr Hui responded.

The development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area has presented vast opportunities for the city's financial services sector, consolidating Hong Kong's role as the gateway connecting Mainland China and global financial markets. "Preparation for the implementation of cross-boundary Wealth Management Connect Scheme and setting up of after-sales service centres for Hong Kong insurers are in full steam," Mr Hui added.

In light of the world economic landscape being reshaped by the pandemic, trade disputes and waves of technological advances, Mr Hui also shared insights on the Government's efforts to maintain financial stability, develop the markets and alleviate shocks in the bolstering of economic recovery.

Also speaking at the webinar was the Group CEO of OCBC Bank, Mr Samuel Tsien, who shared with participants his views on how Hong Kong is an important part of the Bank's regional development strategy.

The webinar concluded with a Question and Answer session moderated by the Director of the HKETO in Singapore, Mr Wong Chun-to, in which topics such as the roles of Hong Kong and Singapore as international financial centres, the implementation details of the electronic consumption voucher scheme, as well as the impact of the Law of the People's Republic of China on Safeguarding National Security in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region on Hong Kong, were discussed. The event received overwhelming response from participants coming from the government sector; banking, finance and other financial services sectors, as well as academics and local business associations in Singapore.

Supported by Invest Hong Kong, the Hong Kong Trade Development Council, Hong Kong Singapore Business Association and the Singapore Business Federation, the webinar is the first of the webinar series organised by HKETO in Singapore in the new year featuring distinguished guest speakers from Hong Kong.



[Government statement in response to the deliberation by NPC of a draft Decision on “improving the electoral system of the HKSAR”](#)

In response to the deliberation by the National People's Congress (NPC)

of a draft Decision on "improving the electoral system of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR)", a spokesman for the HKSAR Government said today (March 4):

"To ensure the steadfast and successful implementation of "one country, two systems", we must always adhere to the principle of "patriots governing Hong Kong". This principle is fundamental to national sovereignty, security, development interests, as well as the long-term prosperity of Hong Kong."

"Only through "patriots governing Hong Kong" can the Central Government's overall jurisdiction over the HKSAR be effectively implemented, the constitutional order as set out by the Constitution and the Basic Law be effectively safeguarded and the long-term stability and safety of Hong Kong be achieved."

"Matters concerning the political system of HKSAR are the prerogative of the Central Government. The Central Government has the authority and responsibility to improve the electoral system in Hong Kong. The HKSAR Government respects that the Central Government is taking the lead and will render its full co-operation."