

Statistics for COVID-19 Vaccination Programme

Under the COVID-19 Vaccination Programme which started on February 26, as of 8pm today (March 3), a total of about 11 700 persons received their first dose of the Sinovac vaccine in the past 24 hours, including about 4 300 persons receiving vaccination at five Community Vaccination Centres, and about 6 900 persons at private doctors and clinics participating in the programme.

Since February 22, a cumulative total of about 51 800 persons have received their first dose of the Sinovac vaccine.

As of 8pm today, a total of about 12 300 persons had reserved their first and second doses of the Sinovac vaccine online in the past 24 hours. Since February 23, a cumulative total of about 256 000 persons have made reservations for vaccination of the Sinovac vaccine.

From 9am to 8pm today, a total of about 91 200 persons had reserved their first and second doses of the Comirnaty vaccine online.

For the past 24 hours ended at 0000 hours today, there are two cases of ambulance transfer to hospital (details at attachment).

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 11 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.

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.

Ten buildings fulfilling the above criteria were included in the compulsory testing notice today (March 3). In addition, since a staff in Sau Ming Primary School, 5 Sau Fung Street, Kwun Tong, Kowloon, was confirmed positive, apart from the staff, students attending that school also have to undergo compulsory testing taking into account the possible higher infectious risks.

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 18 to March 3, 2021 (including but not limited to visitors, residents and workers), have to undergo testing by March 5, 2021. If persons subject to compulsory testing have previously undergone testing between March 1 and March 3, 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 18 to March 3, 2021, have to undergo testing by March 5, 2021. If persons subject to compulsory testing have previously undergone testing between March 1 and March 3, 2021, they would be taken to have complied with the requirements set out in the compulsory testing notice.
3. Any person who had been engaged to work or had been on duty (including full-time, part-time and relief staff) or students who had studied at any specified premises listed in Part C of Annex 1 at any time during the period from February 18 to March 3, 2021, have to undergo testing by March 5, 2021. If persons subject to compulsory testing have previously undergone testing between March 1 and March 3, 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 the following locations tomorrow (March 4) for local residents and workers subject to compulsory testing:

- Chi Fu Fa Yuen, Pok Fu Lam

- Kwai Shing Community Hall
- Hemera, Lohas Park, Tseung Kwan O

The service period of the mobile specimen collection station at Tung Chung North Park will be extended to March 12 (Friday). 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."

[Expert Committee on Clinical Events](#)

Assessment Following COVID-19 Immunisation assessed a suspected serious adverse event following COVID-19 vaccination

The Expert Committee on Clinical Events Assessment Following COVID-19 Immunisation (Expert Committee) convened an urgent meeting today (March 3) to assess a suspected serious adverse event following COVID-19 vaccination. The Expert Committee preliminarily considered that the event and the vaccination did not have direct causal association but the full autopsy report would be required to conclude the assessment.

The Department of Health (DH) received a report from the Hospital Authority (HA) last night (March 2) that a 63-year-old man suffered from acute shortness of breath with cough and attended Queen Elizabeth Hospital by himself in the early morning of February 28. The patient's condition deteriorated rapidly and he eventually succumbed in the same morning. According to the HA, the patient was a heavy smoker, had history of diabetes mellitus, hypertension, hyperlipidemia, obesity and suspected ischemic heart disease. He received a dose of CoronaVac COVID-19 vaccine at the Kwun Chung Sports Centre Community Vaccination Centre in Jordan on February 26. The case has been referred by the HA to the Coroner to follow up.

The preliminary information of autopsy revealed that the patient had serious coronary heart disease which led to acute myocardial infarction and pulmonary oedema and thus resulted in respiratory failure before passing away. The Expert Committee reviewed the case with all available information during the meeting. Having considered the medical conditions and history of the patient as well as relevant clinical data, available information related to the vaccine and preliminary autopsy findings, the Expert Committee conducted a causality assessment based on the algorithm of the World Health Organization (WHO). The Expert Committee considered that the patient's outcome was not directly associated with COVID-19 vaccination. However, the full autopsy report would be required for the Expert Committee to conclude the causality assessment.

"Based on available data, there is no particular safety concern detected from the CoronaVac COVID-19 vaccine. According to the product information of the vaccine, patients with uncontrolled severe chronic diseases should not receive the vaccine. Patients with severe chronic illness should use the vaccine with caution; if necessary, delay vaccination after doctor's assessment," a DH spokesperson urged.

Public urged to stay alert to emails purported to be issued by CHP

The Department of Health (DH) today (March 3) appealed to members of the public to stay alert of a fraudulent email purported to be issued by the Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the DH.

The email concerned (address: enquiry_chpweb@dh.gov.hk) adopted the same address as the official enquiry email of the CHP. However, it was not sent out by the CHP. The email alleged that the CHP would conduct surveillance on the health of universities' staff due to the epidemic, and requested the recipients to provide their health and travel records. The DH clarified that no such email has been issued by the DH.

The DH has referred the case to the Hong Kong Police Force for further investigation.

Anyone who has provided his or her personal information in accordance with the instructions of the email, should contact the Police.

Cluster of Carbapenemase-Producing Enterobacteriaceae cases in Princess Margaret Hospital

The following is issued on behalf of the Hospital Authority:

The spokesperson for Princess Margaret Hospital made the following announcement today (March 3):

Seven male patients (aged 45 to 93) in a Medicine and Geriatrics ward have been confirmed to be carriers of Carbapenemase-Producing Enterobacteriaceae (CPE) since February 23. Four patients are now being treated under isolation, three of them are in stable condition while the remaining patient is in serious condition due to his underlying illness. In addition, two patients had been discharged earlier and one patient had passed away due to pneumonia on February 25.

Following the activation of the Emergency Response Level in public hospitals, the visiting arrangement for the ward has been suspended. The following enhanced infection control measures have been adopted according to established guidelines:

1. Enhanced patient and environmental screening procedures;
2. Stringent contact precautions and enhanced hand hygiene of staff and patients; and
3. Enhanced cleaning and disinfection of the ward.

The hospital will continue to closely monitor the situation of the ward. The cases have been reported to the Hospital Authority Head Office and the Centre for Health Protection for necessary follow-up.