

CE visits Hong Kong Museum of Art and Hong Kong Cultural Centre (with photos)

The Chief Executive, Mrs Carrie Lam, this afternoon (February 19) visited the Hong Kong Museum of Art (HKMoA) and the Hong Kong Cultural Centre, which reopened to the public today, to inspect their anti-epidemic measures. She also toured the thematic exhibitions currently held at the HKMoA and visited the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra, which was rehearsing at the concert hall of the Hong Kong Cultural Centre.

Accompanied by the Director of Leisure and Cultural Services, Mr Vincent Liu, Mrs Lam visited the HKMoA and the adjoining Hong Kong Cultural Centre, where some facilities reopened today. She inspected the anti-epidemic measures adopted at the venues, including the mandating of members of the public to scan the "LeaveHomeSafe" QR code with their mobile phones or register their contact details, stepping up cleaning and disinfection measures and more. As well, special opening hours and admission quotas have been implemented at exhibition venues, while at performance venues, special seating arrangements have been adopted and the size of audiences have been restricted to maintain social distancing. Mrs Lam watched a rehearsal of the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra to give members encouragement and chatted with the conductor, Mr Lio Kuokman, and cellist Mr Trey Lee. Noting that the orchestra has made significant efforts for the forthcoming shows, she said she believed that the ensemble will resume performances at home and abroad gradually following the easing of the epidemic situation.

Mrs Lam also toured two current exhibitions at the HKMoA, namely "Honouring Tradition and Heritage: Min Chiu Society at Sixty" which was launched today, featuring over 300 works of Chinese art, and "Botticelli and His Times – Masterworks from the Uffizi" exhibition jointly organised by the HKMoA and the Uffizi Galleries from Italy. During her visit, she chatted with the visitors and noted that they were excited about the reopening of the museum.

Mrs Lam was pleased to note that during the closure of venues owing to the epidemic, various improvement works were conducted by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department to upgrade the facilities at some of the performance sites with the intention to bring a new experience to users and the public after the reopening of the venues. She said that the 49th Hong Kong Arts Festival will open next Saturday, which is a major event for both the local and international arts scenes, providing a dazzling range of performing arts programmes. She encouraged members of the public not to miss them.

"In the next two years, two museums in the West Kowloon Cultural District (WKCD), i.e. the M+ Museum of modern and contemporary visual arts

and the Hong Kong Palace Museum showcasing invaluable Chinese artefacts, will be launched, and new performance venues such as the East Kowloon Cultural Centre will also be commissioned. These new facilities, together with the reopened HKMoA, the Hong Kong Cultural Centre and the WKCD Xiqu Centre and more, will definitely turn a new page in the development of arts and culture in Hong Kong after the epidemic, offering a fruitful cultural journey to locals and visitors," Mrs Lam said.



[Government gazettes compulsory testing](#)

notice and specifications under Prevention and Control of Disease (Compulsory Testing for Certain Persons) Regulation

The Government exercised the power under the Prevention and Control of Disease (Compulsory Testing for Certain Persons) Regulation (Cap. 599J) and gazetted a compulsory testing notice and specifications, which require any person who had been present at seven specified premises during the specified period (persons subject to compulsory testing) to undergo a COVID-19 nucleic acid test, and continue to empower a registered medical practitioner to require any person whom he clinically suspects has contracted COVID-19 to undergo a test during a period of 14 days from February 20 to March 5, 2021.

Compulsory testing notice

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 two or more confirmed cases are found in a workplace, it will be included in the compulsory testing notice.

Seven buildings fulfilling the above criteria were included in the compulsory testing notice today (February 19).

Details of the compulsory testing notice are as follows:

Any person who had been present at any specified premises listed in Annex 1 for more than two hours at any time during the period from February 6 to February 19, 2021 (including but not limited to visitors, residents and workers), have to undergo testing by February 21, 2021. If persons subject to compulsory testing have previously undergone testing between February 17 and February 19, 2021, they would be taken to have complied with the requirements set out in the compulsory testing notice.

Furthermore, 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 North Point Community Hall, Yee On Centre in Kwun Tong and On Tin Estate in Lam Tin tomorrow (February 20) for local residents and workers subject to compulsory testing. The service period of the mobile specimen collection station at Southorn Playground in Wan Chai will be extended to February 22 (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 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/.

Relevant specifications for compulsory testing for persons clinically suspected to have contracted COVID-19

According to expert advice, compulsory testing for symptomatic patients can effectively slow down the transmission of the virus by early identification, early isolation and early treatment. To keep the epidemic situation under control, the Government considers it necessary to continue to solicit help from medical practitioners in identifying possibly infected persons as soon as possible.

During the period of 14 days from February 20 to March 5, 2021, registered medical practitioners may, by a written direction, require a person whom the medical practitioner attends to in the course of professional practice and clinically suspects to have contracted COVID-19 to undergo a COVID-19 nucleic acid test. Persons who receive the written direction (persons who are subject to testing under written directions) should undergo a test within two days after the issue date of the written direction (the testing deadline).

Persons who are subject to testing under written directions may choose to undergo testing via the following routes:

(1) To use the specimen bottle provided by the registered medical practitioner who issued the written direction to collect a deep throat saliva specimen and submit the specimen bottle to designated specimen collection points by the testing deadline (see the specimen collection points and time at www.coronavirus.gov.hk/eng/early-testing.html). Having reported the case to the DH, the registered medical practitioner who issued the written direction will be notified of the test result; or

(2) To self-arrange testing provided by private laboratories recognised by the DH (see the list at www.coronavirus.gov.hk/pdf/List_of_recognised_laboratories RTPCR.pdf) by the testing deadline and submit the test result to the medical practitioner who issued the written direction or his clinic staff by electronic mail, fax,

or by hardcopy within four days after the testing deadline.

For example, if the written direction is issued on Monday, the person subject to testing under the written direction should undergo a test via one of the above options on or before Wednesday, the testing deadline. If the test result of the specimen is preliminary positive, the specimen will be referred to the Public Health Laboratory Services Branch of the DH for a confirmatory test. Confirmed cases will be followed up and announced by the Centre for Health Protection of the DH.

"Persons who are subject to testing under written directions are suspected to be infected and should not attend the mobile specimen collection stations or the community testing centres for testing. To reduce transmission risk, relevant persons who underwent testing are advised to stay at home and avoid going out when waiting for test results."

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."

[Appeal for information on missing man in Cheung Sha Wan \(with photo\)](#)

Police today (February 19) appealed to the public for information on a

man who went missing in Cheung Sha Wan.

Man Kan-yan, aged 68, went missing after he left an elderly home on Castle Peak Road on February 16 afternoon. Staff of the elderly home made a report to Police yesterday (February 18).

He is about 1.75 metres tall, 60 kilograms in weight and of medium build. He has a long face with yellow complexion and short black and white hair. He was last seen wearing a grey shirt, grey trousers and grey slippers.

Anyone who knows the whereabouts of the missing man or may have seen him is urged to contact the Regional Missing Person Unit of Kowloon West on 3661 8036 or 9020 6542 or email to rmpu-kw@police.gov.hk, or contact any police station.

[Smooth arrival of first batch of COVID-19 vaccines in Hong Kong \(with video\)](#)

The first batch of COVID-19 vaccines is delivered smoothly to Hong Kong this afternoon (February 19), marking the beginning of a new stage in Hong Kong's fight against the COVID-19 epidemic. The delivery also has a significant meaning in reducing the impact of the disease on the society, economy and people's livelihood.

After the arrival of the first batch of 1 million doses of Sinovac vaccine, developed and produced by the Mainland, in Hong Kong, working staff immediately carried out stringent checking and inspection on the vaccines to ensure that they comply with the product specifications and their transportation process follows the cold-chain requirements.

The Secretary for the Civil Service, Mr Patrick Nip, and the Secretary for Food and Health, Professor Sophia Chan, went to the Hong Kong International Airport to inspect the arrival of the first batch of COVID-19 vaccines in Hong Kong.

A Government spokesman said, "Vaccination has brought hope to the world and is the light for controlling the epidemic and restoring people's normal lives. Against the background of the huge demand for, and shortage of vaccines, worldwide, the prompt and smooth arrival of Sinovac vaccines to Hong Kong will help Hong Kong kick-start the COVID-19 Vaccination Programme so that people can receive vaccinations early to reduce the spread of the virus in the community. We are grateful for the support of the Central Government and the country's health authorities."

People belonging to the priority groups for vaccination may make appointments online from next Tuesday (February 23) to receive the Sinovac vaccine at five Community Vaccination Centres (CVCs) and the general out-patient clinics of the Hospital Authority starting from February 26. Private doctors participating in the vaccination programme will also administer the Sinovac vaccine for the public before mid-March.

Members of the public may visit the designated website, www.covidvaccine.gov.hk, to learn more about the COVID-19 vaccines and to make appointments for vaccinations via the round-the-clock booking system. Receiving a vaccination early can protect oneself and others, which will help Hong Kong win the battle against the epidemic as soon as possible.

Update on cluster of Carbapenem Resistant Acinetobacter cases in Prince of Wales Hospital

The following is issued on behalf of the Hospital Authority:

Regarding an earlier announcement on a cluster of patients in a medical ward confirmed to be carriers of Carbapenem Resistant Acinetobacter (CRA), the spokesperson for Prince of Wales Hospital gave the following update today (February 19):

In accordance with the prevailing guidelines, the hospital commenced contact tracing and today confirmed one more male patient, aged 85, as being a CRA carrier. The patient is being treated under isolation in Shatin Hospital with stable condition.

The case has been reported to the Hospital Authority Head Office and the Centre for Health Protection for follow-up. The hospital will continue to closely monitor the situation in the ward concerned and adopt enhanced infection control measures.