

TD appeals to members of public to use public transport to Lantau Island during Lunar New Year holiday

The Transport Department (TD) today (February 11) said that in view of the likely surge in the number of visitors to Lantau Island for leisure and outings during the upcoming Lunar New Year holiday, the TD urges members of the public to use public transport and avoid driving private cars to the Tung Chung town centre as far as possible.

According to the TD's observations, the traffic flow to Lantau Island during weekends upon the opening of the Tuen Mun-Chek Lap Kok Tunnel (TM-CLK Tunnel) significantly increased as compared with that during typical weekends. Most of the journeys were leisure trips made by private cars, which brought an extra traffic load to areas in the vicinity of the TM-CLK Tunnel and the Tung Chung town centre.

The TD appealed to members of the public to use public transport to Lantau Island as far as possible. As the parking spaces in the Tung Chung town centre are limited, motorists can consider booking a parking space and parking their cars at the car parks at the Hong Kong Port of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge, Sunny Bay and Hong Kong Disneyland Resort and interchange with MTR or bus services to Tung Chung. They are also strongly advised to secure a parking space before making a trip.

The TD has requested relevant public transport operators, including the MTR and franchised bus companies, to closely monitor the changes in passenger demand and consider strengthening services whenever necessary. The Police will step up traffic direction and diversion in the Tung Chung area, and will take rigorous enforcement action against illegal parking.

For the latest traffic news and public transport and parking information, please visit the TD's homepage (www.td.gov.hk) or the mobile app "HKeMobility".

United Nations Sanctions (Somalia) Regulation 2019 (Amendment) Regulation 2021 gazetted

The Government today (February 11) gazetted the United Nations Sanctions (Somalia) Regulation 2019 (Amendment) Regulation 2021 (the Amendment

Regulation), which came into operation today.

"The Amendment Regulation amends the United Nations Sanctions (Somalia) Regulation 2019 to implement the decisions on exemptions for arms embargo and financial sanctions, as set out in the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2551," a Government spokesman said.

The Amendment Regulation mainly amends or extends certain exemption conditions and arrangements in respect of arms embargo and financial sanctions.

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.

Man charged with manslaughter

Police yesterday night (February 10) laid a charge against a 41-year-old man with one count of manslaughter, who is in connection with a case happened on 50 Yuen Long On Hing Street, in which a 73-year-old man and a 66-year-old woman died.

At about 1.45am yesterday, Police received a report that the 73-year-old man and the 66-year-old woman laid on a platform on 50 Yuen Long On Hing Street. The man was certified dead at scene and the woman was rushed to Pok Oi Hospital and was subsequently certified dead at 3.09am.

After investigation, officers of District Crime Squad of Yuen Long charged the 41-year-old man yesterday night with one count of manslaughter. The case will be mentioned before Tuen Mun Magistrates' Courts today (February 11) morning.

Government gazetted 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 23 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 two or more confirmed cases are found in a workplace, it will be included in the compulsory testing notice.

Twenty-two buildings fulfilling the above criteria were included in the compulsory testing notice on February 10. In addition, the Government published on January 26, 2021 a compulsory testing notice on Block R, Luk Yeung Sun Chuen, 22-66 Wai Tsuen Road, Tsuen Wan. As it is possible that the incubation period of the virus could be long, the relevant persons 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 Parts A, B of Annex 1 for more than two hours at any time during the period from January 28 to February 10, 2021 (including but not limited to visitors, residents and workers), have to undergo testing by February 14, 2021. If persons subject to compulsory testing have previously undergone testing between February 8 and February 10, 2021, they would be taken to have complied with the requirements set out in the compulsory testing notice.
2. Any person who had been present at any specified premises listed in Part C of Annex 1 for more than two hours at any time during the period from January 28 to February 10, 2021 (including but not limited to visitors, residents and workers), have to undergo testing by February 14, 2021.

The Government will set up mobile specimen collection stations at Riviera Gardens in Tsuen Wan and Jubilee Garden in Fo Tan on February 11. The service period of the mobile specimen collection stations at Kwun Chung Sports Centre in Jordan, MacPherson Playground in Mong Kok and Tsuen Wing Street Playground in Tsuen Wan will be extended to February 14 (Sunday).

Furthermore, the service period of the mobile specimen collection stations at Wong Chuk Hang Sports Centre and Tung Chung North Park will be extended to February 15 (Monday) and February 18 (Thursday) respectively. Starting from February 12, the mobile specimen collection station at Wong Tai Sin Square will be relocated to Muk Lun Street Playground and will be open to February 18 (Thursday) tentatively. Mobile specimen collection stations will remain open during the Lunar New Year to enable members of the public to undergo testing, with opening hours slightly adjusted. 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.

A spokesman for the Food and Health Bureau 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."