

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 actively follows up on European Union's export control mechanism for vaccines

A spokesman for the Government said today (January 30) that the Government is gravely concerned about the European Union's announcement of implementing an export control mechanism, and if necessary, banning the export of COVID-19 vaccines. The SAR Government will closely monitor the development of the situation.

The spokesman said, "We noted that the European Union has stated in its announcement that it will strive to ensure that the new regulation does not affect the exports under advance purchase agreements already entered into between vaccine manufacturers and third parties."

The SAR Government has proactively followed up with the vaccine manufacturers with whom it has entered into advance purchase agreements, actively striving to ensure that the vaccines procured can be supplied to Hong Kong as scheduled. We have indicated to Fosun Pharma that it should reach out to the various relevant parties to ensure that the Fosun/BioNTech vaccine to be exported for supply to Hong Kong under advance purchase agreement will not be affected.

"We will continue to negotiate purchase agreements with vaccine manufacturers from around the world and the Mainland so as to obtain more supplies of vaccines which meet the criteria of safety, efficacy and quality, and strive for the early supply of the vaccines to Hong Kong."

Government gazettes compulsory testing notice

The Government has 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 12 specified premises during the specified period (persons subject to compulsory testing) to undergo a COVID-19 nucleic acid test.

Eleven buildings with sewage samples tested positive were included in the compulsory testing notice today (January 30). In addition, since a number of confirmed cases were found at the relevant construction sites for the Expansion of Hong Kong International Airport into a Three-runway System over a short period of time, relevant persons who had been to the sites also have to undergo compulsory testing.

Details of the compulsory testing notice are as follows:

1. 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 January 17 to January 30, 2021 (including but not limited to visitors, residents and workers), have to undergo testing by February 2, 2021. If persons subject to compulsory testing have previously undergone testing between January 28 and January 30, 2021, they would be taken to have complied with the requirements set out in the compulsory testing notice.
2. Any person who had worked or had been present for more than two hours at the construction sites for contract number 3206-Main Reclamation Works and contract number 3303-Third Runway and Associated Works of the Expansion of Hong Kong International Airport into a Three-runway System at any time during the period from January 17 to January 30, 2021, have to undergo testing by February 2, 2021. If persons subject to compulsory testing have previously undergone testing between January 28 and January 30, 2021, they would be taken to have complied with the requirements set out in the compulsory testing notice.

The Government will set up mobile specimen collection stations at Sycamore Playground in Mong Kok and Lai On Estate in Sham Shui Po tomorrow (January 31). The service period of the mobile specimen collection station at Man Wui Street, Ferry Point in Jordan will also be extended to February 1, 2021 (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.

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."

Queen Elizabeth Hospital announces passing away of COVID-19 patient

The following is issued on behalf of the Hospital Authority:

The spokesperson for Queen Elizabeth Hospital (QEH) today (January 30) announced that a patient confirmed with COVID-19 passed away today.

A 46-year-old female patient (case number: 9643) with chronic diseases was admitted to QEH for isolation treatment on January 18 due to COVID-19. Her condition continued to deteriorate and she eventually succumbed at 6.15 pm today.

The hospital is saddened about the passing away of the patient and would offer necessary assistance to her family.

Including the deceased patient (case number: 10324) announced by the Centre for Health Protection earlier, 174 COVID-19 confirmed patients have passed away in public hospitals so far.

Public hospitals daily update on COVID-19 cases

The following is issued on behalf of the Hospital Authority:

As at 9am today (January 30), 60 COVID-19 confirmed patients were discharged from hospital in the last 24 hours. So far, a total of 9 362 patients with confirmed or probable infection have been discharged.

At present, there are 672 negative pressure rooms in public hospitals with 1 220 negative pressure beds activated. A total of 801 confirmed patients are currently hospitalised in 22 public hospitals and a community treatment facility, among which 28 patients are in critical condition, 38 are in serious condition and the remaining 735 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	6545, 8371, 8699, 8823, 8863, 9119, 9210, 9271, 9354, 9453, 9457, 9462, 9480, 9483, 9486, 9495, 9510, 9521, 9522, 9524, 9527, 9529, 9530, 9549, 9552, 9557, 9563, 9582, 9602, 9611, 9613, 9617, 9635, 9639, 9652, 9660, 9692, 9741, 9764, 9800, 9805, 9827, 9828, 9839, 9855, 9868, 9878, 9887, 9906, 9925, 9933, 10026, 10082, 10171, 10211, 10228, 10268, 10323, 10334, 10347
Critical	1989, 3496, 5409, 5735, 6125, 6444, 6547, 6607, 6754, 6794, 6913, 7021, 8018, 8078, 8126, 8221, 8384, 8900, 9049, 9062, 9135, 9267, 9438, 9778, 9852, 9907, 9959, 10023

Serious	5990, 6232, 6386, 7076, 7305, 7468, 7653, 8323, 8443, 8832, 9030, 9040, 9045, 9055, 9066, 9166, 9284, 9502, 9550, 9612, 9662, 9694, 9733, 9734, 9766, 9793, 9858, 9867, 9905, 9998, 10001, 10134, 10141, 10238, 10241, 10341, 10358, 10367
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