

Government implements "restriction-testing declaration" and compulsory testing notice in respect of specified "restricted area" in Jordan

The Government yesterday (January 23) made a "restriction-testing declaration" and issued a compulsory testing notice in respect of specified "restricted area" in Jordan, requesting persons subject to compulsory testing to take the test before midnight yesterday.

According to the preliminary records of the Food and Health Bureau and the Home Affairs Department (HAD), a total of about 6 900 persons underwent testing at the temporary specimen collection stations in the "restricted area" yesterday.

The Government thanks persons in the "restricted area" for their co-operation in undergoing testing at the specimen collection stations orderly. Meanwhile, the Government appreciates the efforts and support by colleagues of various departments and the testing agencies in helping members of the public to take the test.

Working staff of the Government visited more than 3 240 households in the "restricted area" yesterday, involving around 6 200 residents. Details of the residents were registered to facilitate follow-up on testing condition in the future. Home visits will continue today (January 24). Those who have not undergone testing will be arranged to take the test at specimen collection stations.

The Government provided simple food and basic cleaning tools for persons subject to compulsory testing. The HAD also arranged some 50 working staff who can speak ethnic minority languages to assist residents in the "restricted area" to undergo testing as soon as possible. The staff also distributed relevant information of the "restriction-testing declaration" in multiple languages.

The Government aims to finish the exercise within 48 hours and to complete testing of all identified persons subject to compulsory testing and confirm the results, with a view to allowing residents to start getting to work at around 6am tomorrow (January 25). The Government hopes this exercise will completely cut the local transmission chains and ease residents' worries and fear, so that they will regain confidence in resuming social and business activities in the area, and return to a normal life.

The Government also reminds persons who had been present in the "restricted area" for more than two hours in the past 14 days, even if they were not present in the "restricted area" at the time when the declaration took effect, to comply with the compulsory testing notices and undergo

testing at testing centres as soon as possible for the sake of themselves and that of the others. Undergoing testing is a responsible act for oneself, his/her family and the community. Any person who breaches the "restriction-testing declaration" commits an offence and may be liable to a fine of \$25,000 and imprisonment for six months.

Government gazettes compulsory testing notices

â€‹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 six specified premises during the specified period (persons subject to compulsory testing) to undergo a COVID-19 nucleic acid test.

The Government has delineated earlier the "Jordan specified area" bounded by Nathan Road to its east, Jordan Road to its south, Ferry Street to its west and Kansu Street to its north and the "Sham Shui Po specified area" bounded by Yen Chow Street to its northwest, Tai Po Road to its northeast, Maple Street to its southeast and Lai Chi Kok Road to its southwest. The threshold for compulsory testing in the areas was lowered in order to cut the transmission chain in the community as soon as possible. For buildings within the two specified areas, if there is one or more confirmed cases found in a unit in the past 14 days, or where no confirmed case was found but the sewage samples were constantly tested positive, the buildings would be covered by the compulsory testing notices under Cap. 599J (see separately the enhanced compulsory testing arrangement of the "Jordan specified area" in following paragraph). Three buildings in the "Sham Shui Po specified area" fulfilling the above criteria were included in a compulsory testing notice on January 23.

The Government has further expanded the compulsory testing arrangement in the "Jordan specified area" earlier, and specified the "core area" bounded by Temple Street to its east, Ning Po Street to its south, Reclamation Street to its west and Pak Hoi Street to its north, requiring around 70 buildings therein to be covered by compulsory testing regardless of whether confirmed cases were found. Taking into account the continuously serious epidemic situation in the "Jordan specified area", the Government expanded the "core area" on January 23 morning and delineated the "restricted area" bounded by Woosung Street to its east, Nanking Street to its south, Battery Street to its west and Kansu Street to its north (see Annex 1), requiring persons within the "restricted area" to stay in their premises and undergo compulsory testing in accordance with the arrangement by the Government. At the same time, the Government has also published a compulsory testing notice covering

all premises within the "restricted area", which requires persons who had been present in the "restricted area" for more than two hours in the past 14 days to undergo compulsory testing before midnight of January 23, even if they were not present in the "restricted area" at the time when the relevant declaration took effect.

As for all districts in Hong Kong outside the "Jordan specified area" and the "Sham Shui Po specified area", if confirmed cases not epidemiologically linked to each other were found in two or more units in the same building in the past 14 days, the building would be included in the compulsory testing notice. Three buildings fulfilling the above criteria were included in a compulsory testing notice on January 23.

Details of the compulsory testing notice are as follows:

Any person who had been present at any specified premises listed in Annex 2 for more than two hours at any time during the period from January 10 to January 23, 2021 (including but not limited to visitors, residents and workers), have to undergo testing by January 26, 2021. If persons subject to compulsory testing have previously undergone testing between January 21 and January 23, 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 (FHB) said on January 23, "The Government will seriously follow up on the compliance of compulsory testing notices by persons subject to compulsory testing, and continually review the compulsory testing arrangement of the above specified areas taking into account the epidemic development. Since the infection risk in the community of the specified areas might be higher, the Government encourages residents in the areas to undergo testing proactively and promptly, even if they are not subject to compulsory testing. The mobile specimen collection stations will provide free testing services for all residents in the areas regardless of whether they are subject to compulsory testing or not."

For implementation of the compulsory testing notices for the above specified areas, the Government will set up a mobile specimen collection station at Kwong Ming Street Children's Playground in Wan Chai on January 24 and extend the service period of the mobile specimen collection stations in Maple Street Playground and Kwun Chung Sports Centre, as well as the mobile specimen collection vehicles at the section of Canton Road between Jordan Road and Saigon Street (also called Jade Street) to January 26, 2021 (Tuesday). 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 3. 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 notices.

"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.

Members of the Auxiliary Medical Service and the relevant officers of departments such as DH, Home Affairs Department, Social Welfare Department, Housing Department and Hong Kong Police Force, 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. The FHB will publish compulsory testing notices regarding particular groups when necessary taking into account the epidemic developments and the testing participation rate."

A contract driver of Hongkong Post tests positive for COVID-19

Hongkong Post was notified by a driver of its contractor this evening (January 23) that he tested positive for COVID-19, who is now under home isolation pending admission to hospital for treatment.

The driver concerned performs driving duties for the General Post Office Delivery Office (GPO/DO). Working for around three to six hours every

morning, he is responsible for transporting mail bags and postal staff between Central and Admiralty. The driver needs not work in GP0/D0 or come into contact with mail items or discharge any delivery duties. Neither does he park his vehicle in GP0/D0 after he completes his duties every day. His body temperature was normal during temperature screening at work and he was wearing a mask while on duty.

The driver last performed duty on January 22. He felt unwell that night and sought medical treatment today and underwent COVID-19 testing. Tonight he was notified by the Centre for Health Protection (CHP) that he tested positive.

After receiving the above notification from the driver, Hongkong Post conducted a briefing on the case for all staff members of GP0/D0, and instantly traced the source which showed that a total of nine staff members took a ride on the vehicle in question and had work contacts with the driver concerned. Hongkong Post will arrange them to undergo COVID-19 testing. In addition, pursuant to the guidelines set out by the CHP, Hongkong Post will arrange for thorough cleaning and disinfection of the car park on the ground floor of GP0/D0, and inform all the staff members working in the GP0 building about the case.

Hongkong Post has always attached great attention to the occupational health and safety of its staff by strictly implementing various infection prevention measures during the epidemic, including conducting body temperature screening for all staff members; providing them with protective gear such as face shields, protective goggles, masks, alcohol-based handrub, gloves and alcohol swabs; and requiring them to wear masks when performing duties and stepping up the cleaning of their working environment.

Hongkong Post will continue to maintain close liaison with the CHP. Staff members are also reminded to take note of their personal hygiene and stay vigilant at all times, and they are also advised to seek medical advice immediately in case of feeling unwell.

Delivery service of GP0/D0 will remain normal.

Hongkong Post clerical staff member preliminarily tests positive for COVID-19

Hongkong Post said today (January 23) that a clerical staff member preliminarily tested positive for COVID-19 and is now receiving medical treatment at the hospital.

The clerical staff concerned works on the first floor of the Air Mail Centre (AMC), and that floor is not used for the processing of mail items. Responsible for clerical duties, he is not required to come into contact with any mail or the public, and his working place is not open to the public either.

The staff last performed duty on January 20. He felt unwell that night and sought medical consultation from a private practitioner. On January 22, he turned to seek medical advice from a government clinic and underwent the COVID-19 testing. This morning he was notified by the Centre for Health Protection (CHP) that he preliminarily tested positive. His body temperature was normal during temperature screening at work and he was wearing a mask while on duty.

After learning about the case at around noon today, Hongkong Post arranged for thorough cleaning and disinfection of the whole AMC pursuant to the guidelines set out by CHP. Hongkong Post informed all staff members of AMC about the case. Staff members working on the same floor with the staff concerned are identified by CHP as close contacts requiring to be put under quarantine. Although staff members working on other floors of AMC are not regarded as close contacts, Hongkong Post will still arrange all staff working in AMC to undergo COVID-19 testing.

Hongkong Post has always attached great attention to the occupational health and safety of its staff by strictly implementing various infection prevention measures during the epidemic, including conducting body temperature screening for all staff members; providing them with protective gear such as face shields, protective goggles, masks, alcohol-based handrub, gloves and alcohol swabs; and requiring them to wear masks when performing duties and stepping up the cleaning of their working environment.

Hongkong Post will continue to maintain close liaison with the CHP. Staff members are also reminded to take note of their personal hygiene and stay vigilant at all times, and they are also advised to seek medical advice immediately in case of feeling unwell.

New Territories West Cluster announces a clerical staff of Tuen Mun Eye Centre tested preliminarily positive to COVID-19

The following is issued on behalf of the Hospital Authority:

The spokesperson of the New Territories West Cluster (NTWC) made the

following announcement today (January 23) regarding a clerical staff of Tuen Mun Eye Centre (TMEC) tested preliminarily positive to COVID-19:

A clerical staff of TMEC attended Accident & Emergency Department of Tuen Mun Hospital yesterday afternoon (January 22) due to fever. Her specimen test result released last night was preliminary positive to COVID-19. Her main duty was to handle clerical work related to surgery appointment booking on 3/F and seldom has contact with patients. She last performed duty on yesterday morning. The contact tracing confirmed that five staff members, including two clerical staff, two patient care assistants and one nurse who have had worked or have meals with the staff concerned would be classified as closed contact and required to be quarantined for 14 days. There was another nurse whom has been classified as other contact has to undergo 28 days of medical surveillance.

None of TMEC patient has been classified as close contact nor other contact so far. However, as a precautionary measure, NTWC will arrange 20 patients who have recently visited 3/F of TMEC for surgery appointment booking, around 120 staff and outsource worker of TMEC, and around 100 patients and staff members of the Renal Dialysis Centre on the 1/F in the same building of TMEC to undergo COVID-19 test.

TMEC had conducted thorough cleansing and disinfection. NTWC will continue to closely monitor the health condition of TMEC staff members and communicate with the Centre for Health Protection on latest progress.