

## Government continues to implement compulsory testing notices for several buildings in Yau Ma Tei

The Government today (January 17) continued to arrange compulsory testings for buildings or constructions located at the specified area in Yau Ma Tei with one or more confirmed cases. According to the compulsory testing notices published on January 15 and 16, a total of 22 buildings within the specified area in Yau Ma Tei were covered by the compulsory testing notices.

The Yau Tsim Mong District Office (YTMDO) liaised and worked with testing contractors to set up a district mobile specimen collection station at Kwun Chung Sports Centre and arranged mobile specimen collection vehicles at the section of Canton Road between Jordan Road and Saigon Street (also called Jade Street) to conduct free testing for the residents from 10am to 8pm. Residents who are required to undergo compulsory testing may also take the test for free at the testing centre set up at Henry G. Leong Yaumatei Community Centre (opening hours from 8am to 8pm).

The Home Affairs Department (HAD) and its YTMDO have arranged a number of helpers who speak Nepali, Urdu and other languages to support residents at the sites above, and together with staff of HAD's Office of the Licensing Authority, to conduct home visits and explain relevant arrangements at buildings or constructions covered by the compulsory testing notices. The staff distributed relevant information of the compulsory testing notices in multiple languages and registered details of the residents to facilitate follow-up on compulsory testing in the future. Over 370 households were successfully registered today, over 810 households in total were registered yesterday and today. Home visits will continue tomorrow.

According to preliminary records, over 660 residents underwent testing at the above venues in compliance with the compulsory testing notices today. Besides, over 3 180 residents voluntarily underwent testing at the above venues. In these two days (January 16 and 17), over 7 100 residents in total underwent testing at the above venues.

The Government thanks the support by the residents within the specified area in Yau Ma Tei to undergo testings and appeals to persons who are required to comply with the compulsory testing notices to undergo testing as soon as possible within the period specified in the relevant compulsory testing notices, and reiterates the serious follow-up by the Government on compliance with the compulsory testing notices to curb the spread of the virus.

The Government reminds the public to undergo testing in compliance with the notice. Any person who fails to comply with the testing notice 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/her to undergo testing

within a specified timeframe. Failure to comply with the order is an offence and the offender would be liable to a fine of \$25,000 and imprisonment for six months.

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## Government to gazette compulsory testing notices

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 compulsory testing notices, which require any person who had been present at ten specified premises during the specified period (persons subject to compulsory testing) to undergo a COVID-19 nucleic acid test.

A spokesman for the Food and Health Bureau (FHB) said today (January 17), "To cut the transmission chain in the community as soon as possible, the Government has expanded the scope for 'compulsory testing on mandatory basis'. 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 under Cap. 599J. Persons who had been present at the relevant building in the past 14 days will have to undergo compulsory testing. Two buildings fulfilling the above criteria will be covered by the compulsory testing notice today."

"Furthermore, a number of confirmed cases were recently found in the district of Yau Ma Tei and Jordan over a short period of time. To cut the transmission chain in the district as soon as possible, the Government has earlier decided to take a further step on 'compulsory testing on mandatory basis' in a specified area bounded by Nathan Road to its east, Kansu Street to its north, Ferry Street to its west and Jordan Road to its south. Within the specified area, buildings with one or more confirmed cases found in a unit in the past 14 days would be included in the compulsory testing notice under Cap. 599J. Persons who had been present at the relevant building in the past 14 days will have to undergo compulsory testing. Eight buildings fulfilling the above criteria will be covered by the compulsory testing notice today."

"The compulsory testing list of the above specified area will be continually updated until the infection risk in the district is reduced to a low level, so that we could achieve effective infection control. Since the infection risk in the community of the specified area might be higher, the Government encourages residents in the area 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 area regardless of whether they are subject to compulsory

testing or not."

Details of the compulsory testing notices 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 January 4 to January 17, 2021 (including but not limited to visitors, residents and workers), have to undergo testing by January 20, 2021. If persons subject to compulsory testing have previously undergone testing between January 15 and January 17, 2021, they would be taken to have complied with the requirements set out in the compulsory testing notices.

The Government will set up mobile specimen collection stations at Wuhu Street Temporary Playground, Kowloon City and at Lido Garden, Tsuen Wan starting from tomorrow (January 18). The service period of the mobile specimen collection stations at Kwun Chung Sports Centre and Section of Canton Road between Jordan Road and Saigon Street (also called Jade Street) will be extended to January 20, 2021 (Wednesday) to provide free testing service for persons subject to compulsory testing and other residents of the district. 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](http://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/](http://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](http://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](http://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/](http://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."

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## **Couriers can make appointments for free COVID-19 testing service**

The Food and Health Bureau announced today (January 17) that the Government will provide a one-off free COVID-19 testing service to all couriers (including takeaway food couriers) in Hong Kong from January 19 to January 31 via online booking. Booking for the relevant service can be made starting from today.

A spokesman for the Food and Health Bureau said, "There has been concern about the transmission of virus through door-to-door courier services. In order to reduce transmission risk of COVID-19 in the community, in addition to foreign domestic helpers and construction site workers, the Government will offer a one-off free COVID-19 testing service to all couriers in Hong Kong through community testing centres."

"We encourage couriers to actively participate in the free testing to safeguard their health and that of their families and co-workers. The free testing service will be available until January 31. Couriers can choose a suitable time slot taking into account their own needs."

"If couriers have symptoms, they should seek medical attention immediately and undergo free testing provided by the Government as instructed by a medical professional. They should not attend the community testing centres."

Couriers should make advance booking for the free testing service via the community testing centre booking system ([www.communitytest.gov.hk](http://www.communitytest.gov.hk)). Those who did not make an appointment will need to pay for the testing service at \$240.

The community testing centres are open daily from 8am to 1.30pm and from 2.30pm to 8pm. Deep cleaning and disinfection will be conducted when they close in the afternoon and at night. When arriving at the community testing centre at the designated time slot, couriers should present identity document used at the time of booking (such as Hong Kong identity card or passport) and the SMS booking confirmation for verification.

The free voluntary testing service will be offered starting from January 19 and last until January 31. During the period, each courier can receive free testing service once only. Participants will be notified by SMS through their mobile phones if the test result is negative. Should any specimen is tested preliminary positive, it will be referred to the Public Health Laboratory Services Branch of the Department of Health (DH) for a confirmatory test. Confirmed cases will be followed up and announced by the Centre for Health Protection of the DH.

In addition to attending the community testing centres for testing, couriers can continue to utilise other free testing channels provided by the Government, including obtaining a deep throat saliva specimen collection pack from post offices, MTR stations or designated general outpatient clinics of the Hospital Authority and return the specimen to the designated specimen collection points. For details on testing means other than community testing centres, please refer to the following webpage: [www.coronavirus.gov.hk/eng/early-testing.html](http://www.coronavirus.gov.hk/eng/early-testing.html).

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## **Caritas Medical Centre announces a nurse tested preliminarily positive for COVID-19**

The following is issued on behalf of the Hospital Authority:

The spokesman for Caritas Medical Centre (CMC) made the following announcement today (January 17) regarding a nurse preliminarily tested positive for COVID-19:

A nurse working in the Palliative Care Ward underwent the COVID-19 test on January 16 due to mandatory testing order of her residential building. Her test result was preliminary positive that day.

The nurse does not have contact with confirmed patient during her work and her last working date was January 15. As she was equipped with appropriate personal protective equipment at work, no patient was identified as close contact. The hospital infection control team conducted contact tracing; a nurse and a patient care assistant who had meals and conversation

with the infected staff are classified as close contacts and are required to quarantine for 14 days.â€œ

A thorough cleaning and disinfection of her workplace have been arranged. CMC will continue to monitor the health condition of related staff and patients and communicate with the Centre for Health Protection on the latest situation.

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## **CHP investigates 55 additional confirmed cases of COVID-19**

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health (DH) announced that as of 0.00am, January 17, the CHP was investigating 55 additional confirmed cases of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), taking the number of cases to 9 558 in Hong Kong so far (comprising 9 557 confirmed cases and one probable case).

Among the newly reported cases announced, four are imported cases.

A total of 579 cases have been recorded in the past 14 days (January 3 to 16), including 538 local cases of which 169 are from unknown sources.

The CHP's epidemiological investigations and relevant contact tracing on the confirmed cases are ongoing. For case details and contact tracing information, please see the Annex or the list of buildings with confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the past 14 days and the latest local situation of COVID-19 available on the website "COVID-19 Thematic Website" ([www.coronavirus.gov.hk](http://www.coronavirus.gov.hk)).

Meanwhile, the CHP reminded those who had visited specified venues under the Prevention and Control of Disease (Compulsory Testing for Certain Persons) Regulation (Cap. 599J) to receive COVID-19 nucleic acid testing according to the compulsory testing notice. The public are also urged to seek medical attention early if symptoms develop.

Regarding the severe epidemic situation, the CHP called on members of the public to avoid going out, having social contact and dining out. They should put on a surgical mask and maintain stringent hand hygiene when they need to go out. The CHP strongly urged the elderly to stay home as far as possible and avoid going out. They should consider asking their family and friends to help with everyday tasks such as shopping for basic necessities.

The spokesman said, "Given that the situation of COVID-19 infection remains severe and that there is a continuous increase in the number of cases reported around the world, members of the public are strongly urged to avoid



all non-essential travel outside Hong Kong.

"The CHP also strongly urges the public to maintain at all times strict personal and environmental hygiene, which is key to personal protection against infection and prevention of the spread of the disease in the community. On a personal level, members of the public should wear a surgical mask when having respiratory symptoms, taking public transport or staying in crowded places. They should also perform hand hygiene frequently, especially before touching the mouth, nose or eyes.

"As for household environmental hygiene, members of the public are advised to maintain drainage pipes properly, regularly pour water into drain outlets (U-traps) and cover all floor drain outlets when they are not in use. After using the toilet, they should put the toilet lid down before flushing to avoid spreading germs."

Moreover, the Government has launched the website "COVID-19 Thematic Website" ([www.coronavirus.gov.hk](http://www.coronavirus.gov.hk)) for announcing the latest updates on various news on COVID-19 infection and health advice to help the public understand the latest updates. Members of the public may also gain access to information via the COVID-19 WhatsApp Helpline launched by the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer. Simply by saving 9617 1823 in their phone contacts or clicking the link [wa.me/85296171823?text=hi](https://wa.me/85296171823?text=hi), they will be able to obtain information on COVID-19 as well as the "StayHomeSafe" mobile app and wristband via WhatsApp.

To prevent pneumonia and respiratory tract infections, members of the public should always maintain good personal and environmental hygiene. They are advised to:

- Wear a surgical mask when taking public transport or staying in crowded places. It is important to wear a mask properly, including performing hand hygiene before wearing and after removing a mask;
- Perform hand hygiene frequently, especially before touching the mouth, nose or eyes, after touching public installations such as handrails or doorknobs, or when hands are contaminated by respiratory secretions after coughing or sneezing;
- Maintain drainage pipes properly and regularly (about once a week) pour about half a litre of water into each drain outlet (U-trap) to ensure environmental hygiene;
- Cover all floor drain outlets when they are not in use;
- After using the toilet, put the toilet lid down before flushing to avoid spreading germs;
- Wash hands with liquid soap and water, and rub for at least 20 seconds. Then rinse with water and dry with a disposable paper towel. If hand washing facilities are not available, or when hands are not visibly soiled, performing hand hygiene with 70 to 80 per cent alcohol-based handrub is an effective alternative;
- Cover your mouth and nose with tissue paper when sneezing or coughing. Dispose of soiled tissues into a lidded rubbish bin, then wash hands thoroughly; and



- When having respiratory symptoms, wear a surgical mask, refrain from work or attending class at school, avoid going to crowded places and seek medical advice promptly.