

Liquor Licensing Board to meet on Tuesday

The following is issued on behalf of the Liquor Licensing Board:

The Liquor Licensing Board (LLB) will meet on Tuesday (January 19) to consider an application for a new issue of a liquor licence.

The application is:

Hong Kong:

BLOSSOM in Sai Wan

The board will also consider revocation of the liquor licence of SENCE in Tsim Sha Tsui.

The meeting will be held at 9.45am in the conference room, Room 102, 1/F, 258 Queen's Road East, Wan Chai. In response to the latest developments of coronavirus disease 2019, to avoid the gathering of people in an enclosed environment and to safeguard the health of all participants, public seats will not be available for all open hearings of the LLB in the interim.

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.

Red fire danger warning

Attention duty announcers, radio and TV stations:

The fire danger situation today (January 17) is red and fire risk is extreme. The countryside is extremely vulnerable to fire. If you are planning to spend the day in the countryside, please take pre-cooked food for a picnic and take all measures to prevent hill fires. The penalty for lighting fires illegally in the countryside is \$25,000 and a year's imprisonment.

Government strives to implement the compulsory testing notices (with photos)

The Government today (January 16) arranged compulsory testings for 20 buildings or constructions located at Yau Ma Tei with one or more confirmed cases.

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 Jordon Road and Saigon Street (also called Jade Street) to conduct free testing for the residents. 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.

The Home Affairs Department (HAD) and its YTMDO have arranged a number of helpers who speak Nepali, Urdu and other languages, 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 distribute relevant information of the compulsory testing notices in multiple languages and register details of the residents to facilitate follow-up on compulsory testing in the future. Over 440 households have been successfully registered today. We will continue to conduct home visits in the coming two days.

According to preliminary records, over 1 100 residents have undergone testing at the above venues in compliance with the compulsory testing notices today. Besides, over 2 300 residents have voluntarily undergone testing at the above venues.

In view of the epidemic situation, we understand that residents in the district are worried that the epidemic may spread through the environment. The HAD will arrange cleansing for buildings with one or more confirmed cases, and covered by the compulsory testing notices.

The Government appeals to persons who are required to comply with the compulsory testing notices to undergo testing as soon as possible within the

period specified (i.e by January 18, 2021) in the 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.



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 compulsory testing notice, which requires any person who had been present at two 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 16), "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. Two buildings fulfilling the above criteria are 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 notice are as follows:

Any person who had been present at any of the following specified premises for more than two hours at any time during the period from January 3 to January 16, 2021 (including but not limited to visitors, residents and workers), have to undergo testing by January 19, 2021. If persons subject to compulsory testing have previously undergone testing between January 14 and January 16, 2021, they would be taken to have complied with the requirements set out in the compulsory testing notice.

1. 23-25 Reclamation Street, Yau Tsim Mong
2. Top Jade Mansion, 608 Canton Road, Yau Tsim Mong

The Government has set up mobile specimen collection stations at Kwun Chung Sports Centre and Canton Road between Jordan Road and Saigon Street (i.e. Jade Street). 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. 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, including the community testing centre at Henry G Leong Yaumatei Community Centre, 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 notice 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 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 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."