

Government announces cancellation of 2021 Lunar New Year fairs

The Government announced today (January 8) that in view of the latest developments of the COVID-19 epidemic, it has decided to cancel the Lunar New Year (LNY) fairs at 15 locations and the Che Kung Festival Fair (festival fair) in Sha Tin scheduled to be held in February this year.

A spokesman for the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) said, "The current epidemic situation in Hong Kong remains severe and the risk of rebound of the epidemic situation has not subsided. There are also silent transmission chains in the community and the risk of cluster outbreaks."

"Earlier on, the Government has already adjusted the scale of the LNY fairs this year. However, it is possible that a large number of people may gather at the LNY fairs and the festival fair. The Government, after taking into account the development of the epidemic, has decided to cancel this year's LNY fairs and the festival fair so as to protect the health of stall owners and the public on site and reduce the risk of spread of the disease," he added.

The FEHD will inform the successful stall bidders of the decision in writing, and arrange full refund of the stall licence fee to them in accordance with the licence agreement as soon as possible.

The spokesman said, "To assist flower farmers to sell flowers through other alternative means, we will meet with major stakeholders of the trade to actively explore feasible measures under the premise of upholding the anti-epidemic principles, such as identifying suitable locations in public housing estates or other places in various districts for selling New Year flowers, with a view to minimising the impact of the cancellation of the LNY fairs on the trade."

Meetings of Legislative Council and its Committees

The following is issued on behalf of the Legislative Council Secretariat:

Details of the meetings of the Legislative Council (LegCo) and its Committees to be held in the LegCo Complex during the week from January 11 to 15 are available in the meeting schedule attached.

The information in the meeting schedule is subject to change. Please refer to the "LegCo Calendar" on the LegCo Website (www.legco.gov.hk) for the latest details of meetings.

Members of the public can watch or listen to the meetings via the "Webcast" system on the LegCo Website. To observe the proceedings of the meetings at the LegCo Complex, members of the public may call 3919 3399 during office hours to reserve seats.

For the informal meetings conducted via Zoom, members of the public can watch the live broadcast on the LegCo YouTube Channel (www.youtube.com/user/legcogovhk).

Tseung Kwan O Hospital staff member tests positive for COVID-19

The following is issued on behalf of the Hospital Authority:

The spokesman for Tseung Kwan O Hospital (TKOH) made the following announcement today (January 8) regarding a patient care assistant (PCA) tested positive for COVID-19:

A PCA of TKOH attended the Mona Fong General Out-patient Clinic on January 6 for coughing and throat discomfort. His deep throat saliva test was positive to COVID-19. He is being arranged for isolation treatment with stable condition.

The PCA works in the Department of Anaesthesia and Operation Theatre. The hospital's infection control team has conducted contact tracing. As the PCA wore surgical mask and was equipped with appropriate personal protective equipment at work in accordance with the infection control guidelines, no patients are classified as close contacts. Also, he had no contact with COVID-19 confirmed patients at the hospital. One staff member who had meal together with the PCA is classified as close contact and required quarantine for 14 days. COVID-19 test was arranged and the result was negative.

A thorough cleaning and disinfection of his workplace have been done. TKOH will continue to communicate with the Centre for Health Protection on the latest situation.

[Woman sentenced for breaching compulsory quarantine order](#)

A 24-year-old woman was fined \$10,000 by the Eastern Magistrates' Courts today (January 8) for violating the Compulsory Quarantine of Persons Arriving at Hong Kong from Foreign Places Regulation (Cap. 599E) (the Regulation).

The woman was earlier issued a compulsory quarantine order stating that she must conduct quarantine at a hotel for 14 days. Before the expiry of the quarantine period, she permitted other persons to enter her hotel room on December 4, 2020, without reasonable excuse nor permission given by an authorised officer. She was charged with contravening sections 8(4) and 8(5) of the Regulation and was fined \$10,000 by the Eastern Magistrates' Courts today.

Pursuant to the Regulation, starting from December 25, 2020, all persons arriving in Hong Kong (either via the airport or land boundary control points) who have stayed in places outside China on the day of arrival in Hong Kong or during the 21 days before that day have to undergo compulsory quarantine for 21 days in designated quarantine hotels. Moreover, pursuant to the Compulsory Quarantine of Certain Persons Arriving at Hong Kong Regulation (Cap. 599C), starting from February 8, 2020, all persons who have stayed in the Mainland, Macao or Taiwan in the 14 days preceding arrival in Hong Kong, regardless of their nationality or travel documents, will also be subject to compulsory quarantine for 14 days. Breaching a quarantine order is a criminal offence and offenders are subject to a maximum fine of \$25,000 and imprisonment for six months.

A spokesman for the Department of Health said the sentence sends a clear message to the community that breaching a compulsory quarantine order is a criminal offence that the Government will not tolerate, and solemnly reminded the public to comply with the Regulation. As of today, a total of 96 persons have been convicted by the courts for breaching compulsory quarantine orders and have received sentences including immediate imprisonment for up to 14 weeks or a fine of up to \$15,000. The spokesman reiterated that resolute actions will be taken against anyone who has breached the relevant regulations.

[Government to gazette compulsory testing notice](#)

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 a compulsory testing notice, which requires any person who had been present at three 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 8), "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. Three buildings fulfilling the above criteria will be covered by the compulsory testing notice today."

Details of persons subject to compulsory testing 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 December 26, 2020, to January 8, 2021 (including but not limited to visitors, residents and workers), have to undergo testing by January 11, 2021. If persons subject to compulsory testing have previously undergone testing between January 6 and January 8, 2021, they would be taken to have complied with the requirements set out in the compulsory testing notice.

1. Mei Sau House of Mei Tin Estate, 1 Heung Fan Liu Street, Tai Wai
2. Yan Ching House of Kai Ching Estate, 12 Muk Hung Street, Kowloon City
3. 26 Reclamation Street, Jordan (a building located on No. 26 Reclamation Street)

"Based on recent experience, persons subject to compulsory testing would feel more relieved if they receive SMS (mobile phone text message) notifications confirming the negative results of the tests. Such SMS notifications can also facilitate law enforcement. Therefore, the Government has updated the testing routes applicable to compulsory testing notices, which only include those where SMS notifications confirming negative test results would be issued to persons who underwent testing afterwards. The Government is reviewing the need for setting up mobile specimen collection stations near the relevant buildings. 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 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 the 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 the 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 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.

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."