

## **Fatal traffic accident in Chai Wan**

Police are investigating a fatal traffic accident in Chai Wan yesterday (January 5) in which an 82-year-old woman died.

At about 4.55pm, a bus driven by a 63-year-old man was travelling along Aldrich Bay Road southbound. When turning right to Tung Hei Road, it reportedly knocked down the 82-year-old woman who was crossing the road.

Sustaining head injuries, the woman was rushed to Pamela Youde Nethersole Eastern Hospital in conscious state and was certified dead at 7.30pm.

The bus driver was arrested for dangerous driving causing death and is being detained for further enquiries.

Investigation by the Special Investigation Team of Traffic, Hong Kong Island is underway.

Anyone who witnessed the accident or has any information to offer is urged to contact the investigating officers on 3660 6815.

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## **Chief Executive in Council approves premium waivers for three pedestrian links and refinement measures**

The Government announced today (January 5) that the Chief Executive in Council has approved premium waivers for three pedestrian links in Admiralty, Wan Chai and Causeway Bay under the Policy of Facilitating Provision of Pedestrian Links by Private Sector (the Policy) (location plans at Annex A).

All three applications have passed the four-test evaluation tool developed by the University of Hong Kong and received the support of the Land and Development Advisory Committee.

A spokesperson for the Development Bureau (DEVB) said that the proposed link in Admiralty would provide an all-weathered, barrier-free access between the harbourfront and hinterland enhancing the connectivity and walkability of the area. The proposed link in Wan Chai would provide an alternative routing with connection to the Admiralty MTR Station that is more pleasant than the existing rather vehicle-oriented route between Admiralty and Wan Chai. Together with other existing and planned pedestrian facilities in the area,

the existing network can be further expanded enabling pedestrians to have a grade-separated walkway all the way from Queens Road East to Admiralty and Central.

Similarly, the proposed link in Causeway Bay could divert pedestrians away from existing busy at-grade roads such as Yun Ping Road, Hysan Avenue, Pennington Street and Leighton Road. It would be a more direct, safe and comfortable access from the Causeway Bay MTR Station to the hinterland, covering areas frequented by pedestrians.

As pre-requisite conditions of the Policy, applicants will be required to bear the design, construction, management and maintenance responsibilities and related costs of the approved links, and provide, as a norm, 24-hour barrier-free public access at such links. The applicants will also need to work on other issues related to the implementation of the pedestrian links such as their design, visual impact, gazettal and objection resolution, etc.

The spokesman added that while the Policy has been welcomed by the community as an effective measure to incentivise the private sector to do more to make the city more connected and walkable, there was room to improve the administration of and inject more flexibility into the Policy to better serve its intended purposes and expedite implementation of the approved links. With the Chief Executive in Council's endorsement, the DEVB would introduce refinement measures which would be applicable to applications being or to be processed by the DEVB. A summary of the key refinement measures is in Annex B.

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## **Outsourced cleansing worker at Housing Authority Headquarters tests positive for COVID-19**

The Housing Department (HD) today (January 5) learned that a part-time cleansing worker employed by one of its contractors for cleaning work at Housing Authority Headquarters (HAHQs) in Ho Man Tin has tested positive for COVID-19. She is now in hospital for treatment.

The cleansing worker is responsible for vacuum cleaning of office area at HAHQs. She last performed duties on December 31, 2020.

The cleansing worker is a tenant of a public housing estate. All tenants of the residential block she lived in were recently required by the Centre for Health Protection (CHP) to take compulsory COVID-19 test. The CHP notified her today that she had tested positive for the virus.

The cleansing worker has no recent travel history. She has been wearing a face mask and observing relevant disease prevention measures at work. During the period when she performed duties, she had been undergoing temperature checks and her body temperature was normal.

The HD will arrange thorough cleansing and disinfection of the office areas concerned, including common areas, in accordance with the guidelines of the CHP.

The HD will continue to keep up close liaison with the CHP and co-operate with its quarantine work.

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## **85 per cent of people took the test in compliance with compulsory testing notices**

According to the compulsory testing notices published on December 30 and 31, 2020, as well as the latest information from the Centre for Health Protection yesterday (January 4), the Government has arranged mobile specimen collection stations, Community Testing Centres or other testing avenues to provide testing for persons of the 42 specified premises (see Annex 1) covered by the compulsory testing notices. The period specified in the relevant compulsory testing notices expired yesterday.

According to the preliminary records of the Food and Health Bureau and the Home Affairs Department (HAD), as at yesterday, a cumulative total of about 55 000 persons who were required to undergo compulsory testing had taken the test at the 27 relevant specimen collection stations (see Annex 2) or Community Testing Centres in various districts, which accounted for nearly 85 per cent of the estimated number of residents of corresponding buildings covered by the testing notices. 16 positive cases were detected through the abovementioned compulsory testing. In addition, the HAD understands that some people had taken the tests through other means as specified in the testing notices.

The HAD thanks the many residents who had complied with the compulsory testing notices for their co-operation to fight against the virus together. The HAD is also grateful for the efforts and support by the relevant government departments and colleagues, as well as the testing contractors and their staff, to carry out the testing for the public.

The HAD reminds the public again that the Government will take resolute follow-up action to ensure compliance to all testing notices.

The COVID-19 virus is high in transmissibility. Although many patients

are asymptomatic, they still infect people around them. Participation in testing is a responsible act for oneself, family members as well as the community. The Government appeals to 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 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 5), "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 23, 2020, to January 5, 2021 (including but not limited to visitors, residents and workers), have to undergo testing by January 8, 2021. If persons subject to compulsory testing have previously undergone testing between January 3 and January 5, 2021, they would be taken to have complied with the requirements set out in the compulsory testing notice.

1. Block A of Lux Theatre Building, 20 Ming On Street, Hung Hom
2. Wing Hei House (Block B) of Po Hei Court, 255 Po On Road, Sham Shui Po
3. Civic House (Block 3) of Affluence Garden, 33 Tsing Chung Koon Road, Tuen Mun

"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](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 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 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/](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 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."