

## HA announces passing away of two COVID-19 patients

The following is issued on behalf of the Hospital Authority:

The Hospital Authority spokesperson today (December 28) announced the passing away of two patients confirmed with COVID-19 infection today.

A 74-year-old female patient (case number: 8540) with terminal illness was admitted to United Christian Hospital on the night of December 16 due to shortness of breath. Her condition continued to deteriorate and she eventually succumbed at 1.19am today.

In addition, a 73-year-old male patient (case number: 5840) with chronic illness was admitted to Caritas Medical Centre on November 24 due to the positive result of a COVID-19 test. His condition continued to deteriorate and he eventually succumbed at 2.38am today.

The hospitals are saddened by the passing away of the patients and will offer the necessary assistance to their families.

Including the above two patients, 135 COVID-19 confirmed patients have passed away in public hospitals so far.

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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 Fung Chak House of Choi Wan (II) Estate 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 (December 28), "The Government had earlier sponsored a multi-disciplinary team of the University of Hong Kong to conduct a preliminary study on the monitoring of the COVID-19 virus level in sewage. The study revealed that the sewage samples in Ming Lai House and Fung Chak House of Choi Wan (II) Estate constantly tested positive, which implied that persons infected with COVID-19 might be present at the relevant places.

"The Government published on December 26 a compulsory testing notice, requiring any person who had been present at Ming Lai House for more than two hours during the specified period to undergo second testing between December 27 and December 29. While there are no confirmed cases at Fung Chak House at the moment, for prevention purposes and after taking into account expert views, the Government will publish a compulsory testing notice under Cap. 599J, which requires persons who had been to Fung Chak House during the specified period to undergo testing by December 31.

"Based on recent experience, persons subject to compulsory testing would feel more relieved if they receive SMS (mobile phone text message) confirming the negative results of the tests. Such SMS can also facilitate law enforcement. Therefore, the Government has updated the testing routes applicable to compulsory testing notices, which only include those where SMS confirming negative test results would be issued to persons who underwent testing afterwards. The Government has set up a mobile specimen collection station near Ming Lai House, and will set up another one near Fung Chak House shortly to facilitate persons subject to compulsory testing to undergo testing."

Details of persons subject to compulsory testing are as follows:

Any person who had been present at Fung Chak House of Choi Wan (II) Estate, 55 Clear Water Bay Road, Wong Tai Sin, for more than two hours at any time during the period from December 15 to December 28, 2020 (including but not limited to visitors, residents and workers).

Persons subject to compulsory testing should undergo testing by December 31, 2020. If persons subject to compulsory testing have previously undergone testing between December 27 and December 28, they would be taken to have complied with the requirements set out in the compulsory testing notice.

Persons subject to compulsory testing may choose to undergo testing via the following routes:

1. To visit any 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 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 the designated specimen collection points (see the distribution points and time, and the specimen collection points and time at [www.coronavirus.gov.hk/eng/early-testing.html](http://www.coronavirus.gov.hk/eng/early-testing.html));
4. To undergo testing at any GOPCs of the Hospital Authority as instructed by

a medical professional of the Hospital Authority; or

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))

The spokesman cautioned that testing received at accident and emergency departments of the Hospital Authority or during hospital stays, using specimen bottles distributed to the relevant specified premises by the Centre for Health Protection, 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/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 development and the testing participation rate."

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## Firing practice for January 2021

Firing practice will take place at two military sites, namely the San Wai/Tai Ling Firing Range and the Tsing Shan Firing Range, next month (January 2021).

Red flags or red lamps will be hoisted at the firing areas before and during firing practice. For their safety, people are advised not to enter the firing area.

Following are the dates and times for the firing practice sessions in January 2021:

### San Wai/Tai Ling Firing Range

Date	Time
January 4 (Monday)	8am-9pm
January 5 (Tuesday)	8am-9pm
January 6 (Wednesday)	8am-9pm
January 7 (Thursday)	8am-9pm
January 8 (Friday)	8am-9pm
January 11 (Monday)	8am-9pm
January 12 (Tuesday)	8am-9pm
January 13 (Wednesday)	8am-9pm
January 14 (Thursday)	8am-9pm
January 15 (Friday)	8am-9pm
January 18 (Monday)	8am-9pm
January 19 (Tuesday)	8am-9pm
January 20 (Wednesday)	8am-9pm
January 21 (Thursday)	8am-9pm
January 22 (Friday)	8am-9pm
January 25 (Monday)	8am-9pm
January 26 (Tuesday)	8am-9pm
January 27 (Wednesday)	8am-9pm
January 28 (Thursday)	8am-9pm
January 29 (Friday)	8am-9pm

### Tsing Shan Firing Range

Date	Time
January 4 (Monday)	8am-9pm
January 5 (Tuesday)	8am-9pm
January 6 (Wednesday)	8am-9pm
January 7 (Thursday)	8am-9pm
January 8 (Friday)	8am-9pm
January 11 (Monday)	8am-9pm
January 12 (Tuesday)	8am-9pm
January 13 (Wednesday)	8am-9pm
January 14 (Thursday)	8am-9pm
January 15 (Friday)	8am-9pm
January 18 (Monday)	8am-9pm
January 19 (Tuesday)	8am-9pm
January 20 (Wednesday)	8am-9pm
January 21 (Thursday)	8am-9pm
January 22 (Friday)	8am-9pm
January 25 (Monday)	8am-9pm
January 26 (Tuesday)	8am-9pm
January 27 (Wednesday)	8am-9pm
January 28 (Thursday)	8am-9pm
January 29 (Friday)	8am-9pm

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## [Lantau Conservation Fund opens for application](#)

The Lantau Conservation Fund (LCF) opened for application today (December 28) to provide financial support for eligible organisations to implement conservation and related projects in Lantau.

The Chief Executive announced in her 2018 Policy Address that the \$1 billion LCF would be set up to promote and support conservation of Lantau, with \$500 million dedicated to providing financial support to eligible non-governmental organisations, charities, post-secondary education institutions and more to collaborate with local communities and landowners and carry out three streams of conservation and related projects, namely conservation management agreement, research, and education and engagement.

A spokesman for the LCF Secretariat said that conservation and related projects cover a wide range of areas, including natural environment, ecology, culture, history, rural character, landscape, geomorphology and other relevant elements. Through provision of resources for implementing these conservation and related projects, it is anticipated that the LCF will enhance the environmental capacity of Lantau, conserve the culture and rural character of Lantau and promote sustainable development of Lantau.

The application deadline for Conservation Management Agreement Projects

is 5pm on March 31, 2021, while the deadline for Research Projects and Education and Engagement Projects is 5pm on February 26, 2021. The application form and guidelines can be downloaded from the LCF website ([lcf.gov.hk](http://lcf.gov.hk)).

For enquiries, please contact the Secretariat of the LCF Advisory Committee at 2153 2739 or [enquiry@lcf.gov.hk](mailto:enquiry@lcf.gov.hk).

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## **Innovation and Technology Venture Fund adds three co-investment partners**

The Innovation and Technology Commission today (December 28) announced that the Innovation and Technology Venture Fund (ITVF) has added three venture capital (VC) funds as co-investment partners (CPs), namely Greater Bay Area Homeland Development Fund, Isola Capital and Lingfeng Capital.

The Innovation and Technology Commission called for a new round of applications from VC funds to become CPs of the ITVF early this year and received 11 applications. Based on the assessment criteria including the VC fund's capability, its investment strategy and performance, its management team's expertise and experience and its local network and resources, as well as the advice of the ITVF Advisory Committee, the Innovation and Technology Commission selected the aforementioned three CPs at the first stage. The remaining selected CPs will be announced later.

The ITVF signed co-investment agreements with six VC funds in the third quarter of 2018. To date, the Government has co-invested with the CPs through the ITVF in 19 local innovation and technology (I&T) start-ups. Its investment has totalled around \$100 million, attracting over \$500 million of private investment. The business areas of these I&T start-ups include supply chain management, e-commerce, financial technology, biotechnology and artificial intelligence.

The Government set up the ITVF with the aim of encouraging VC investment in local I&T start-ups and creating a more vibrant start-up ecosystem in Hong Kong. The CPs are responsible for recommending suitable investment targets to the Government. The Government will co-invest with the CPs at a ratio of approximately 1 (Government): 2 (CP) in eligible start-ups. Details of the ITVF and brief information on the CPs are available on the ITVF website ([www.itf.gov.hk/l-eng/ITVF.asp](http://www.itf.gov.hk/l-eng/ITVF.asp)).