

Hospital Authority announces positive patient cases detected via admission screening or testing and clusters of nosocomial COVID-19 infections

The following is issued on behalf of the Hospital Authority:

The Hospital Authority today (August 5) announced information regarding patients who tested positive via admission screening or testing with patients or staff members identified as close contacts and nosocomial COVID-19 infection cases.

The following are the statistics of patients who tested positive via admission screening or by testing in public hospitals with patients or staff members identified as close contacts:

Hospital/clinic	Number of patients who tested positive	Number of patients identified as close contacts	Number of staff members without appropriate personal protective equipment identified as close contacts
Tuen Mun Hospital	1	1	–

The following are the statistics of clusters of nosocomial infection cases in public hospitals:

Hospital/clinic	Number of patients who tested positive	Number of staff members who tested positive
Tung Wah Group of Hospitals Wong Tai Sin Hospital	–	1

Thorough cleaning and disinfection have been conducted for the wards concerned. The hospitals will continue to monitor the health condition of patients and staff members closely, and communicate with the Centre for Health Protection on the latest situation.

Hong Kong Customs seizes cannabis-type dangerous drugs worth about \$46 million in past two months (with photos)

â€œIn the light of cannabis abuse among youths, Hong Kong Customs has stepped up enforcement before the summer holidays to vigorously combat smuggling of cannabis-type dangerous drugs. In June and July this year, 38 cases were detected successfully and about 291 kilograms of suspected cannabis-type dangerous drugs with an estimated market value of about \$46 million were seized. Seven persons aged between 18 and 36 suspected to be connected with the cases were arrested. The number of cases and the seizure amount have increased about 1.4-fold and about 1.1-fold compared to the figures for the same period last year. The main origins of cannabis-type dangerous drugs are regions with relatively loose enforcement control against cannabis, such as North America.

Among the above-mentioned cases, three of them were in-town cases while 35 cases were detected at Hong Kong International Airport. Customs officers seized a total of about 123kg of cannabis-type dangerous drugs with an estimated market value of about \$16 million at the airport. The number of cases and the seizure amount have increased about 2.2-fold and about 1-fold compared to the figures for June and July last year.

The major types of cannabis-type dangerous drugs seized by Customs officers included cannabis buds, herbal cannabis and cannabis resins, which weighed about 87kg and accounted for about 70 per cent of the cannabis-type dangerous drugs seized. The remaining 30 per cent were cannabidiol (CBD) products suspected of containing tetrahydro-cannabinol (THC), which weighed about 36kg.

Other than traditional cannabis, Customs noticed that various CBD products have also emerged in the market in recent years. Many of them were tested to contain THC which is a dangerous drug. Customs has been taking a positive attitude in this regard. The department has mounted enforcement actions proactively and has strived to deter the illegal import of CBD products suspected of containing THC into Hong Kong. From January to July this year, Customs seized a total of about 27 500 items of CBD products suspected of containing THC with arrests of 12 persons aged between 18 and 44 suspected to be connected with the cases. The seizure amount and the number of arrests have substantially increased about 14-fold and about 11-fold compared to the figures for the same period last year.

Customs reminds members of the public not to release their personal data or address to others for receiving mail or goods to avoid having their information used in illegal activities. The public also should not receive mail and goods for others. Moreover, importers and traders are also

responsible for ensuring that the products they supply do not contain THC or other dangerous drugs.

During the summer holidays, drug syndicates may take the opportunity to recruit youngsters to carry out drug trafficking activities. Customs appeals to parents to keep an eye on their children to prevent them from participating in drug trafficking activities under peer influence. Youngsters should also stay alert and not participate in related activities for monetary return.

Cannabis and THC are both classified as dangerous drugs under the Dangerous Drugs Ordinance (DDO). Importation of products (including food or drinks) containing cannabis or THC into Hong Kong is prohibited unless the relevant provisions in the DDO are complied with. Members of the public should avoid bringing cannabis-type products or pure CBD products from overseas into Hong Kong.

Under the DDO, trafficking in a dangerous drug is a serious offence. The maximum penalty upon conviction is a fine of \$5 million and life imprisonment.

Members of the public may report any suspected drug trafficking activities to Customs' 24-hour hotline 2545 6182 or its dedicated crime reporting email account (crimereport@customs.gov.hk).



[Director of Government Logistics undergoing home quarantine](#)

The Government Logistics Department today (August 5) said that the Director of Government Logistics, Mr Carlson Chan, has been identified as a close contact, after having interactions with a person who had tested preliminarily positive for COVID-19. He is undergoing home quarantine in accordance with the guidelines of the Centre for Health Protection.

Mr Chan has taken COVID-19 rapid antigen tests regularly with negative test results obtained. He also tested negative after conducting a COVID-19 rapid antigen test today.

Licence of employment agency revoked

The Labour Department (LD) today (August 5) reminded operators of employment agencies (EAs) to conduct their business in compliance with the law and the requirements of the Code of Practice for EAs (the Code) at all times.

The LD has revoked the EA licence of Planet Employment Agency located in Mei Foo. The EA failed to meet the requirements as set out in the Code, including failing to ensure that any information that is made available to employers is consistent with the facts made known to it; failing to provide employers with copies of all documents that they have signed in their dealings with the EA; failing to draw up service agreements with foreign domestic helpers (FDHs) or include all required items in the service agreements drawn up with FDHs; and failing to draw up service agreements with FDH employers or include all required items in the service agreements drawn up with FDH employers, etc. The licensee concerned had appealed to the Administrative Appeals Board but the appeal was dismissed.

Under section 53(1)(c)(iva) of the Employment Ordinance (EO), the Commissioner for Labour (the Commissioner) may revoke the licence of an EA if he is satisfied that the licensee concerned has not complied with the Code.

"The Code sets out the salient legal requirements that EA operators must observe in operating their business, as well as the standards which the Commissioner expects from EAs. The Employment (Amendment) Ordinance 2018, which came into effect on February 9, 2018, stipulates that the Commissioner may refuse to issue or renew a licence, or may revoke a licence, if he is satisfied on reasonable grounds that the licensee or the person intending to be the licensee of an EA, or a related person of or an individual employed by the licensee or the person intending to be the licensee has contravened any provision of Part XII or any regulation made under section 62 of the EO, such as overcharging job seekers or operating an EA without a licence, or has not complied with the Code issued under section 62A(1) of the EO," the spokesman said.

The LD has revoked the licences of a total of 11 EAs since 2020, including the above case.

For enquiries about matters related to EAs or complaints about alleged malpractices, please call the Employment Agencies Administration of the LD at 2115 3667, or visit its office at Unit 906, 9/F, One Mong Kok Road Commercial Centre, 1 Mong Kok Road, Kowloon.

Government gazettes relevant specifications for compulsory testing for persons clinically suspected to have contracted COVID-19

The Government exercises the power under the Prevention and Control of Disease (Compulsory Testing for Certain Persons) Regulation (Cap. 599J) and publishes relevant specifications in the Gazette to continue to empower a registered medical practitioner to require any person whom he or she clinically suspects has contracted COVID-19 to undergo a test during a period of 14 days from August 6 to 19, 2022.

According to expert advice, compulsory testing for symptomatic patients can effectively slow down the transmission of the virus by early identification, early isolation and early treatment. To keep the epidemic situation under control, the Government considers it necessary to continue to solicit help from medical practitioners in identifying possibly infected persons as soon as possible.

During the specified period, registered medical practitioners may, by a written direction, require a person whom the medical practitioner attends to in the course of professional practice and clinically suspects to have contracted COVID-19 to undergo a COVID-19 nucleic acid test. Persons who receive the written direction (persons who are subject to testing under written directions) should undergo a test within two days after the issue date of the written direction (the testing deadline).

If Tropical Cyclone Warning Signal No. 3 or above, the Red or Black Rainstorm Warning Signal or the post-super typhoon "extreme conditions" announcement by the Government is in force at any time during the period for undergoing the compulsory testing, the testing deadline will be extended for one day.

Persons who are subject to testing under written directions may choose to undergo testing via the following routes:

(1) To use the specimen bottle provided by the registered medical practitioner who issued the written direction to collect a deep throat saliva specimen and submit the specimen bottle to a designated specimen collection point by the testing deadline (see the specimen collection points and times at www.coronavirus.gov.hk/eng/early-testing.html). Having reported the case to the Department of Health (DH), the registered medical practitioner who issued the written direction will be notified of the test result; or

(2) To self-arrange testing provided by private laboratories recognised by the DH (see the list at www.coronavirus.gov.hk/pdf/List_of_recognised_laboratories_RTPCR.pdf) by the testing deadline and submit the test result to the medical practitioner who issued the written direction or his clinic staff by email, fax or hard copy within four days after the testing deadline.

For example, if the written direction is issued on a Monday, the person subject to testing under the written direction should undergo a test via one of the above options on or before Wednesday, the testing deadline.

"Persons who are subject to testing under written directions are suspected to be infected and should not attend the mobile specimen collection stations or community testing centres for testing. To reduce transmission risk, relevant persons who underwent testing are advised to stay at home and avoid going out when waiting for test results," a Government spokesman said.

â€‹

The Government will continue to trace possibly infected persons who had been to relevant premises, and seriously verify whether they had complied with the compulsory testing directions. Any person who fails to comply with the compulsory testing directions commits an offence and the maximum penalty upon conviction is a fine at level 4 (\$25,000) and imprisonment for six months. The fixed penalty for discharging the liability is \$10,000. The person may also be issued with a compulsory testing order requiring him or her to undergo testing within a specified time frame. Any person in breach of the compulsory testing order would be liable to a fine at level 5 (\$50,000) and imprisonment for six months.

Relevant officers of different government departments 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 when necessary. Any person who fails to comply with the relevant request to provide information 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 the DH or other relevant departments for anti-epidemic purposes 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."