

HKSAR Government firmly opposes and strongly condemns US Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi's visit to Taiwan

A spokesman for the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government said on August 2 that the HKSAR Government firmly opposes and strongly condemns a visit to Taiwan by the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the United States (US), Nancy Pelosi.

The spokesman said, "The HKSAR Government resolutely safeguards China's national sovereignty and territorial integrity, and upholds the one-China principle. Pelosi's visit to Taiwan constitutes gross interference in China's internal affairs, seriously undermines China's sovereignty and territorial integrity, wantonly tramples on the one-China principle, greatly threatens the peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait, severely undermines China-US relations, and will lead to a very serious situation and grave consequences.

"The Central Government has already stated that it will respond resolutely and take all necessary measures to defend its national sovereignty and territorial integrity. The HKSAR Government fully supports the Central Government in opposing the interference by external forces in the internal affairs of China, and will facilitate the implementation of countermeasures to be taken by our country against the US, thereby safeguarding our nation's sovereignty, security and development interests and upholding our national dignity."

CE firmly opposes and strongly condemns US Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi's visit to Taiwan

The Chief Executive, Mr John Lee, expressed on August 2 his firm opposition to the visit to Taiwan by the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the United States, Nancy Pelosi. He strongly condemns Pelosi's visit which wantonly tramples on the one-China principle, seriously undermines China's sovereignty and territorial integrity, greatly threatens the peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait and gravely violates basic norms governing international relations.

Mr Lee said, "The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

(HKSAR) Government has unwavering determination in and a clear stance against any advocacy of 'Taiwan independence', and fully supports the Central Government's resolute determination in safeguarding national sovereignty and territorial integrity."

"Pelosi's visit is tantamount to encouraging 'Taiwan independence' and openly challenges the one-China principle, undermining the stability in the Taiwan Strait. Such a move, betting on and in contempt for the well-being of more than 20 million people in Taiwan, is extremely selfish."

He stressed that the HKSAR Government firmly opposes any external forces interfering in the internal affairs of China, and will fully support and facilitate all necessary measures by the Central Government to resolutely safeguard national sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Government gazettes compulsory testing notice

The Government exercises the power under the Prevention and Control of Disease (Compulsory Testing for Certain Persons) Regulation (Cap. 599J) and publishes in the Gazette a compulsory testing notice, which requires any person who had been present at 65 specified places during the specified period (persons subject to compulsory testing) to undergo a COVID-19 nucleic acid test.

In view of a number of cases testing positive, 60 specified places are included in the compulsory testing notice. Furthermore, since some sewage samples collected in Lam Tin, Kowloon Bay and Tuen Mun have tested positive, five specified premises are included in the compulsory testing notice. The Government strongly reminds members of the public to strictly follow the compulsory testing requirements and undergo testing on time as required. Mobile specimen collection stations have been set up by the Government in different districts to facilitate testing to be conducted in compliance with the compulsory testing notice. The above compulsory testing requirement applies to those who have completed a COVID-19 vaccination course as well.

Persons who have tested positive in the past three months (including positive cases tested either by nucleic acid tests recorded by the Department of Health (DH) or by rapid antigen tests (RATs) that have been self-declared to the DH) do not need to undergo compulsory testing. For those who are subject to compulsory testing (save for those who have declared their positive RAT results as mentioned above), they must undergo nucleic acid tests in accordance with relevant compulsory testing notices and cannot use RATs to fulfil the requirement of such notices. In other words, a negative RAT result cannot be deemed as fulfilling the compulsory testing requirement. Furthermore, unless a person subject to compulsory testing has obtained a

medical certificate proving that he or she is unfit to undergo testing using a sample taken through combined nasal and throat swabs because of health reasons, the person cannot provide a deep throat saliva sample to fulfil the compulsory testing requirement.

Details of the compulsory testing notice are available on the Centre for Health Protection (CHP)'s website via the following link: www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/ctn_20220802.pdf.

If any persons test positive under compulsory testing, such positive cases will be handled in the same manner as in those identified through other nucleic acid tests or self-declared through RATs. Their isolation arrangements (as well as the quarantine arrangements of their household members) are no different from other positive cases.

Persons subject to compulsory testing in accordance with a compulsory testing notice must go to any of the mobile specimen collection stations, community testing centres (CTCs) or recognised local medical testing institutions to undergo professional swab sampling in fulfilling the requirements for compulsory testing. Young children may continue to undergo the test using a stool specimen. For details on obtaining stool specimen bottles, please refer to the COVID-19 thematic website: www.coronavirus.gov.hk/pdf/Stool_bottle_collection_points.pdf.

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 period for undergoing the compulsory testing will be extended for one day.

The Comirnaty and CoronaVac vaccines are highly effective in preventing severe cases and deaths from COVID-19. They can provide protection to those vaccinated to prevent serious complications and even death after infection. The Government appeals to persons who are not yet vaccinated to get vaccinated without delay. The Government is working towards the goal of boosting the vaccination rates of children, teenagers and the elderly so that they can be protected by the vaccines as early as possible. Furthermore, the Scientific Committee on Vaccine Preventable Diseases and the Scientific Committee on Emerging and Zoonotic Diseases under the CHP of the DH has earlier updated the consensus interim recommendations that a three-dose series of Comirnaty vaccine (each dose is one-tenth of that for an adult) may be administered to children aged six months to under five years; and a three-dose series of CoronaVac vaccine (each dose of the same dosage as that for an adult) for children aged six months to less than three years. Besides, persons aged 50 and above may receive the fourth dose of COVID-19 vaccine after at least three months from the third dose. Members of the public who are eligible should get the fourth dose as early as possible for better protection.

CTCs provide testing services for the public. Booking and walk-in services are available. Members of the public only need to provide simple personal information on the 24-hour booking system

(www.communitytest.gov.hk/en). The system shows the booking status of the centres for the coming two weeks to facilitate the public's planning and selection of a suitable testing centre and a time slot for testing. The testing centres will accord priority to serve individuals with advance bookings. As of 6pm today (August 2), there was around 97 per cent availability for booking places for the coming two weeks. Members of the public may call the testing centres for enquiries on the availability of bookings or walk-in quotas before visiting the centres.

The Government will reopen the mobile specimen collection station at Cheung Shan Estate in Tsuen Wan tomorrow (August 3). The service period of the mobile specimen collection station at Bellagio in Sham Tseng will be extended to August 4 (Thursday). Separately, ticketing machines have been installed in a number of service points for on-site ticket arrangement. Members of the public who have obtained a ticket can visit the CTC website (www.communitytest.gov.hk/en) to check the real-time queueing ticket status. Booking service is also provided for some large-scale mobile specimen collection stations, and members of the public may use the 24-hour booking system (www.communitytest.gov.hk/en) to reserve a suitable time slot for testing.

Other than persons subject to compulsory testing, all members of the public may conduct free testing at CTCs or mobile specimen collection stations (if the service scope is applicable). The Government will also continue to provide free nucleic acid testing service for eligible persons of targeted groups, visitors to public hospitals and residential care homes and all elderly people aged 60 or above at CTCs and mobile specimen collection stations. The opening dates and operating hours of the mobile specimen collection stations are stated in the Annex.

Outdoor mobile specimen collection stations will be closed if the Strong Wind Signal No. 3 or Red Rainstorm Warning Signal has been issued, while all mobile specimen collection stations together with all CTCs will be closed when Tropical Cyclone Warning Signal No. 8 or above or the Black Rainstorm Warning Signal is in force. Any changes in the arrangements of testing service will be announced on site, and members of the public may also pay attention to the relevant press releases.

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

(a) For tests which require using a sample taken through combined nasal and throat swabs

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 CTCs (see the list at www.communitytest.gov.hk/en);

3. To self-arrange testing provided by private laboratories which are recognised by the 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), and

the relevant sample must be taken through combined nasal and throat swabs; or
4. To use a specimen bottle distributed to the relevant specified premises by the CHP (if applicable), and return the specimen bottle with the stool sample collected as per relevant guidelines.

(b) For persons holding a medical certificate issued by a registered medical practitioner proving that they are unfit to undergo testing using a sample taken through combined nasal and throat swabs because of health reasons

1. To obtain a deep throat saliva specimen collection pack from post offices, vending machines set up at MTR stations or designated general out-patient 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);

2. To undergo testing at any of the GOPCs of the Hospital Authority as instructed by a medical professional of the Hospital Authority; or

3. To self-arrange testing provided by private laboratories which are recognised by the DH and can issue SMS notifications in respect of test results.

A Government spokesman cautioned that testing received at the Accident and Emergency Departments of the Hospital Authority, 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 CTCs."

Persons subject to compulsory testing must keep the SMS notifications containing the result of the test and the relevant medical certificate (if applicable) for checking by a law enforcement officer when the officer requires the persons to provide information about their undergoing the specified test.

Any enquiries on compulsory testing arrangements may be addressed to the hotline at 6275 6901, which operates daily from 9am to 6pm.

The Government will continue to trace possibly infected persons who had been to relevant premises, and seriously verify whether they had complied with the testing notices. Any person who fails to comply with the testing notices 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.

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 had contact with cases tested positive), to undergo testing promptly for early identification of infected persons."

HAD distributes complimentary COVID-19 rapid test kits to households, cleansing workers and property management staff in Eastern, Yau Tsim Mong and Yuen Long Districts (with photos)

In light of positive test results for the COVID-19 virus from sewage samples collected in Eastern, Yau Tsim Mong and Yuen Long Districts, the Home Affairs Department (HAD) said today (August 2) that the Eastern District Office (EDO), the Yau Tsim Mong District Office (YTMDO) and the Yuen Long District Office (YLDO) have distributed a total of about 338 000 COVID-19 rapid test kits to households, cleansing workers and property management staff living and working in the Districts.

The EDO distributed rapid test kits to households, cleansing workers and property management staff living and working in Aldrich Garden and residential premises around Tin Hau Temple Road and Cloud View Road for voluntary testing through the property management companies.

The YTMDO also distributed rapid test kits to households, cleansing workers and property management staff living and working in Metro Harbour View, Island Harbourview, the Long Beach, Harbour Green, Hampton Place, One Silver Sea, Imperial Cullinan and residential premises around Battery Street, Shanghai Street and Nanking Street for voluntary testing through the property management companies and the owners' corporations.

In addition, the YLDO also started distributing rapid test kits to villagers living in Tan Kwai Tsuen and Tai Tao Tsuen in Hung Shui Kiu, and households, cleansing workers and property management staff living and working in Tin Shing Court, Hang Fook Building, Hung Fook Building, Dor Fook Building and Pak Fook Building for voluntary testing through the Village Representatives and property management companies.

The HAD made the above arrangements in the hope of identifying infected persons early.

Members of the public may refer to the demonstration video produced by the Centre for Health Protection (CHP) under the Department of Health (DH) via www.youtube.com/watch?v=yzFAUzTtmKk to learn how to use the rapid antigen test (RAT) kit.

Persons testing positive through an RAT should take a photo of the test result and declare the result within 24 hours via the Declaration System for Individuals Tested Positive for COVID-19 Using Rapid Antigen Test (www.chp.gov.hk/ratp). If members of the public encounter difficulties in using the online platform, they can call the automated system at 183 6119 to register their identification document and telephone number. The CHP under the DH will contact the relevant person later to complete the report procedure. There is no need to declare negative test results.

The Government appeals for the co-operation of members of the public to safeguard the health of themselves and their families by undergoing testing on a voluntary basis and fighting the virus together. The Government urges all individuals who are in doubt about their own health condition, or individuals with infection risks (such as individuals who visited places with epidemic outbreaks or had contact with cases that tested positive), to undergo testing promptly for early identification of infected persons to reduce the transmission risks of COVID-19.



Police National Security Department laid a holding charge against a man

The National Security Department of the Hong Kong Police Force today (August 2) laid a holding charge against a 34-year-old man with one count of doing an act or acts with seditious intention.

The case will be mentioned at the West Kowloon Magistrates' Courts tomorrow morning (August 3).

A 36-year-old man was released on bail and is required to report back to Police in early November.