

## 72nd round of compulsory testing for staff members of RCHEs, RCHDs and nursing homes

The Government today (July 20) announced the details of the 72nd round of compulsory testing for staff members of residential care homes for the elderly (RCHEs), residential care homes for persons with disabilities (RCHDs) and nursing homes.

In accordance with section 10(1) of the Prevention and Control of Disease (Compulsory Testing for Certain Persons) Regulation (Cap. 599J) (the Regulation), the Secretary for Health issued a compulsory testing notice yesterday (July 19), requiring persons who are employed by and will be on duty at RCHEs, RCHDs, nursing homes and day service units attached to the premises of residential care homes during the period from July 27 to August 2, 2022, or who will provide services to residents or users through hire-of-service contracts with residential care homes and the aforementioned units during that period (including full-time, part-time and relief staff), to undergo polymerase chain reaction-based nucleic acid tests for COVID-19 once during the period from July 20 to 26, 2022, according to the requirements and procedure set out in the notice (the Specified Test), if they have not received vaccine(s) for coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19 vaccine) in the manner specified in Annex 1 of the Vaccine Pass Direction issued under the Prevention and Control of Disease (Vaccine Pass) Regulation (Cap. 599L) (Vaccine Pass Direction). The samples must be collected by using combined nasal and throat swabs and must not be taken by the person to be tested.

For ordinary persons, the manner specified in Annex 1 of the Vaccine Pass Direction for receiving COVID-19 vaccines is either (i) received three doses of vaccine or (ii) within six months after having received the second dose of vaccine. For recovered persons, the manner specified in Annex 1 of the Vaccine Pass Direction for receiving COVID-19 vaccines includes (i) received three or two doses of vaccine; (ii) no additional dose required within six months after recovery; (iii) within six months after having received the first dose of vaccine after recovery; or (iv) aged 12 to 17 and received one dose of Fosun Pharma/BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine (Comirnaty vaccine).

A person who received COVID-19 vaccine in a place outside Hong Kong would be deemed to have fulfilled the third dose requirement if he or she received the "dose(s) required" on the list of recognised vaccines (the List) on the Government's COVID-19 Thematic Website ([www.coronavirus.gov.hk/pdf/list\\_of\\_recognised\\_covid19\\_vaccines.pdf](http://www.coronavirus.gov.hk/pdf/list_of_recognised_covid19_vaccines.pdf)) and an additional dose of a vaccine on the List. For a person who has been fully or partially vaccinated with vaccine not on the List, he or she is required to start over with vaccines available in Hong Kong following the local recommended schedule.

The staff of institutions who had obtained a positive test result in a polymerase chain reaction-based nucleic acid test or rapid antigen test for COVID-19 on or after June 20, 2022, are not required to undergo testing in accordance with the requirements of the notice provided that they can produce the relevant SMS (mobile phone text message) notification containing the positive result of the test, or the relevant SMS notification or isolation order issued after making a declaration on the Government's Declaration System for Individuals Tested Positive for COVID-19 Using Rapid Antigen Test.

The staff of institutions who are required to undergo the Specified Test may choose the following means:

- (1) To undergo the Specified Test in any of the Community Testing Centres (see the list at [www.communitytest.gov.hk/en](http://www.communitytest.gov.hk/en)), Temporary Testing Centres (if any) (see the list at [www.swd.gov.hk/en/index/site\\_pubsvc/page\\_supportser/sub\\_ttc](http://www.swd.gov.hk/en/index/site_pubsvc/page_supportser/sub_ttc)), or mobile specimen collection stations (if any) (see the list at [www.coronavirus.gov.hk/eng/early-testing.html](http://www.coronavirus.gov.hk/eng/early-testing.html)) in accordance with the instructions given by the staff at the centre/station;
- (2) To have a sample collected by a healthcare professional or trained personnel as arranged by institution operators at a laboratory listed on the "COVID-19 Thematic Website" (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
- (3) To self-arrange testing provided by a laboratory listed on the "COVID-19 Thematic Website" at their own expense (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)) and the sample through a combined nasal and throat swab must not be taken by the person himself or herself.

Any person who fails to comply with the testing notice commits an offence and may be subject to a fixed penalty of \$10,000. He or she 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 5 (\$50,000) and imprisonment for six months.

A spokesman for the Social Welfare Department (SWD) said that the SWD and the Department of Health would issue letters to institutions to inform them of the relevant arrangements and requirements. The spokesman reminded staff of the said institutions who will undergo testing at community testing centres that they should make an advance booking via the community testing centre booking system ([www.communitytest.gov.hk](http://www.communitytest.gov.hk)) for the free testing service. In addition, institution operators should remind their staff members to properly keep the SMS notifications of their test results or their test result reports.

Institution operators are required to keep records of their staff having received the Specified Test and the results within the time frame specified

by the Government. They are also required to keep the list of staff members who have received COVID-19 vaccine in the manner specified in Annex 1 of the Vaccine Pass Direction. Institution operators also have to co-operate with Checking Officers (Compulsory Testing) of the SWD who are enforcing the Regulation at residential care homes.

The SWD spokesman said that starting from the 26th round of compulsory testing, staff members who have not been vaccinated and do not have medical certificates certifying that they are unfit to receive COVID-19 vaccination owing to health reasons have had to undergo compulsory testing at their own expense. The Government will continue to monitor the epidemic situation and make adjustments to the aforementioned testing policy after taking the overall anti-epidemic measures into account.

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## **Red flag hoisted at Stanley Main Beach**

Attention TV/radio announcers:

Please broadcast the following as soon as possible:

Here is an item of interest to swimmers.

The Leisure and Cultural Services Department announced today (July 20) that due to big waves, the red flag has been hoisted at Stanley Main Beach in Southern District, Hong Kong Island. Beachgoers are advised not to swim at the beach.

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## **Territory-wide Physical Fitness Survey for the Community to hold additional testing time slots to address overwhelming response**

The Territory-wide Physical Fitness Survey for the Community test days organised by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) will hold additional testing time slots in July and August in view of the overwhelming response, so that participants could have a general understanding of their own fitness conditions, as well as understand the importance of physical fitness for health and exercising regularly in daily life.

The survey aims to set up a database on the physical fitness of Hong Kong people, identify the relationship between physical exercise patterns and the physical fitness of Hong Kong people, and assist the Government in identifying priority areas for improvement to enhance the overall physical fitness of the community.

Members of the public are welcome to join the activities for free. Participants who complete the survey will receive a souvenir pack and a physical fitness test report. Details of the test days are as follows:

Date: July 25 (Monday)

Time: noon to 6.30pm (last session is 5.30pm)

Venue: Chuk Yuen Sports Centre (Chuk Yuen North Estate, Chuk Yuen Road, Wong Tai Sin, Kowloon)

Login ID and password: Testday0725

Age group: 17 to 59

Date: July 28 (Thursday), August 1 (Monday) and August 2 (Tuesday)

Time: July 28 (4pm to 10pm, last session is 9pm); August 1 and 2 (3.30pm to 9.30pm, last session is 8.30pm)

Venue: Kowloon Bay Sports Ground (1 Kai Lok Street, Kowloon Bay)

Login ID and password: KBSG

Age group: 17 to 59

Date: August 10 (Wednesday)

Time: 3pm to 5pm (last session is 4pm)

Venue: Shun Lee Tsuen Sports Centre (33 Shun Lee Tsuen Road, Kwun Tong, Kowloon)

Login ID and password: Testday0810

Age group: 17 to 59

Date: August 17 (Wednesday), August 22 (Monday), August 29 (Monday) and August 31 (Wednesday)

Time: 4pm to 10pm (last session is 9pm)

Venue: Hammer Hill Road Sports Ground (158 Hammer Hill Road, Diamond Hill, Kowloon)

Login ID and password: HHRSG

Age group: 17 to 59

Members of the public who would like to take part in the survey can register on the designated webpage ([pfs2021.com.hk](http://pfs2021.com.hk)) under the "Registration Login for Invited Participants" section by using the above-mentioned specified login ID and password, and select a time slot for the test. The survey will last around an hour. Walk-in registration is also available at the venues on a first-come, first served basis.

In addition, the LCSD will also offer additional quotas for test days to be held on August 4 and August 14 at Tsing Yi Southwest Sports Centre (70 Chung Mei Road, Tsing Yi) and Tiu Keng Leng Sports Centre (2 Chui Ling Road, Tseung Kwan O) respectively. Interested parties can register for the survey by using Testday0804 and Funday0814 as the login ID and password

respectively.

All participants are reminded to wear masks, have their body temperature checked and scan the "LeaveHomeSafe" QR code. In accordance with the Prevention and Control of Disease (Vaccine Pass) Regulation (Cap. 599L) and relevant requirements of administrative instructions, all persons entering or remaining at the scheduled premises or other indoor venues under the management of the LCSD must comply with the requirement of the third stage of the Vaccine Pass.

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## [Hong Kong Public Libraries introduces rich e-resources through interactive zones at Book Fair \(with photos\)](#)

The Hong Kong Public Libraries (HKPL) continues to join the Hong Kong Book Fair this year, and introduce to members of the public its rich e-resources through interactive zones and demonstrations. The Hong Kong Book Fair is being held at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre from today (July 20) to July 26.

The HKPL's booth is located at stall D22 in Hall 1B with the theme "life/LIBRARY", encouraging members of the public to rekindle the joy of reading and create a multifaceted life. Visitors can try the HKPL's e-resources with its touchscreen panels and tablets at the booth to experience the convenient online library services. Members of the public can also use the Instagram filters of the page "Reading is Joyful" ([www.instagram.com/readingisjoyful](http://www.instagram.com/readingisjoyful)) to connect reading with everyday life.

The HKPL enriches its digital collection from time to time. The three newly added e-book and e-database collections are "JoyReadClub", "Miss Humblebee's Academy" and "Gale OneFile: News". "JoyReadClub" is a collection of locally published Chinese e-books suitable for adults, teenagers and children. It covers a wide range of subjects, including literature and fiction, investment and wealth management, psychology and inspiration, medicine and health, as well as comics and children's books. "Miss Humblebee's Academy" is a fun and interactive learning platform which provides guided learning for young children to progress in the curriculum by introducing key concepts in art and music, language and literacy, mathematics, science and social studies, and social and emotional learning. "Gale OneFile: News" provides full-text articles of English newspapers and magazines, as well as newswire content and broadcast transcripts from around the world.

The Chinese e-book collections HyRead and SUEP in the HKPL's digital collection are popular among readers, offering leisure and trending reading

materials suitable for people of all ages. Readers can also read from categories such as household knowledge, literature and fiction, and social sciences. Another e-book collection, OverDrive, offers different varieties of English e-books including leisure reading materials, children and young adult collections, fiction and biographies for readers to explore the worlds of literature, technology, commerce, economics, social science and more.

The HKPL provides over 470 000 e-books and more than 80 e-databases. Members of the public can log in to their library accounts to read online or download to computers and mobile devices for e-reading anywhere and anytime. Hong Kong residents who have never applied for library cards or HKPL e-accounts can visit the HKPL's website to apply for e-accounts and enjoy immediate access to the diversified e-resources.

Please visit the HKPL's booth at the fair or visit [www.hkpl.gov.hk/en/e-resources/index.html](http://www.hkpl.gov.hk/en/e-resources/index.html) to know more about the e-resources.

To comply with the anti-epidemic regulations, visitors should take note of pandemic prevention measures and the admission arrangements implemented at the book fair. For details, please visit [hkbookfair.hktdc.com/en/Visitor/Health-Tips.html](http://hkbookfair.hktdc.com/en/Visitor/Health-Tips.html).



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## [Remand person in custody commits suicide by hanging at Lai Chi Kok Reception Centre](#)

A 67-year-old male remand person in custody at Lai Chi Kok Reception Centre committed suicide by hanging yesterday (July 19).

At 10.03pm yesterday, a correctional officer found that the remand person in custody had committed suicide by hanging with his shirt tied to the grille bars of his cell. The officer immediately called for reinforcement to provide first aid treatment, and called for an ambulance to send the remand

person in custody to a public hospital for rescue. He was subsequently certified dead at 11.32pm.

The Correctional Services Department has reported the case to the Police. A death inquest will be held by the Coroner's Court.

The deceased was remanded for the offence of intercourse with a mentally incapacitated person in July 2022.