

## Government makes "restriction-testing declaration" and issues compulsory testing notice in respect of specified "restricted area" in Shek Tsui House, Shek Wai Kok Estate, Tsuen Wan

The Government today (May 30) exercised the power under the Prevention and Control of Disease (Compulsory Testing for Certain Persons) Regulation (Cap. 599J) to make a "restriction-testing declaration" effective from 5.30pm, under which people (hereafter referred to as "persons subject to compulsory testing") within the specified "restricted area" in Tsuen Wan (i.e. Shek Tsui House, Shek Wai Kok Estate, excluding kindergarten and social service unit on G/F, see Annex) are required to stay in their premises and undergo compulsory testing. Persons subject to compulsory testing are required to stay in their premises until all such persons identified in the "restricted area" have undergone testing and the test results are mostly ascertained. The Government aims at finishing this exercise at around 10am tomorrow (May 31). The operation may be extended depending on test results.

A Government spokesman said, "Under Cap. 599J, the Government can, according to the needs of infection control, make a 'restriction-testing declaration'. Having reviewed a basket of factors, including the viral load in sewage, the information of relevant positive cases, and other circumstantial factors, and conducted a risk assessment, the Government decided to make a 'restriction-testing declaration' for the relevant area."

The Government will set up temporary specimen collection stations at the "restricted area" and request persons subject to compulsory testing to undergo testing before 11.30pm today. Arrangements will be made for persons subject to compulsory testing to undergo a nucleic acid test at specimen collection stations where dedicated staff will collect samples through combined nasal and throat swabs. Persons subject to compulsory testing must stay at their place of residence until all test results are ascertained to avoid cross-infection risk. The Government will make arrangement to facilitate specimen collection for people with impaired mobility. All persons in the "restricted area" who have tested positive in the past 14 days, including positive cases identified either by nucleic acid tests recorded by the Department of Health (DH) or by rapid antigen tests that have been self-declared to the DH, are not required to undergo testing in this compulsory testing exercise.

The Government spokesman said, "We understand that this exercise will cause inconvenience to the public. The Government has made arrangements to carry out testing for all persons present in the 'restricted area' as soon as possible. The aim is to strive to complete testing of all identified persons

subject to compulsory testing and confirm the results, and finish the exercise at around 10am tomorrow. The Government will make a public announcement when the declaration expires officially. In the cases in which employees are unable to go to work because of the declaration, the Government hopes their employers can exercise discretion and not deduct the salaries or benefits of the employees."

If staying in the "restricted area" will cause unreasonable hardship to individuals who are not residents in the area when the declaration takes effect, government officers may exercise discretion and allow that person to leave the area after considering the individual circumstances. That person must have followed the instructions to undergo testing and leave his/her personal information for contact purposes.

According to the compulsory testing notice to be issued today, any persons other than those specified above who had been present at the above building for more than two hours from May 24 to May 30, 2022, even if they were not present in the "restricted area" at the time when the declaration took effect, must undergo compulsory testing on or before June 1, 2022. As a mutant strain is involved, for prudence's sake, vaccinated persons and persons who have recently been tested are also required to undergo testing.

The Housing Department has set up a hotline (Tel: 2416 5341) which started operation at 5.30pm today for residents restricted by the declaration to make enquiries and seek assistance. The Social Welfare Department will also provide assistance to the affected persons.

The Government appeals to persons subject to compulsory testing for their full co-operation by registering and undergoing testing, and waiting for the results patiently at home. The Government will strictly follow up on whether the persons concerned have complied with the compulsory testing notices and "restriction-testing declaration". Any person who fails to comply with the compulsory testing notices commits an offence and may be fined a fixed penalty of \$10,000. 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 compulsory testing order or the "restriction-testing declaration" is an offence and the offender would be liable to a fine at level 5 (\$50,000) and imprisonment for six months.

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## **Mortgage principal moratorium plan and HIBOR Plan for Subsidised Sale Flats Scheme**

The following is issued on behalf of the Hong Kong Housing Authority:

In order to enable banks and authorised financial institutions participating in the provision of mortgage finance for the Subsidised Sale Flats Scheme (SSFS) (participating financial institutions) to allow owners of SSFS flats to defer repayment of the mortgage principal, the Hong Kong Housing Authority (HA) issued today (May 30) a side letter to these participating financial institutions to confirm and agree that they may offer a new round of mortgage principal moratorium plan (moratorium plan) to SSFS flats mortgagors. Repayment of the principal may be deferred by a maximum period of 12 months (the moratorium period). The moratorium period may commence by December 31, 2022, at the latest.

In April 2020, the HA also issued a side letter to the participating financial institutions to inform them that they might offer a similar arrangement under which SSFS flat mortgagors might defer repayment of the principal for a maximum of 12 months and the repayment period of the mortgage loan might be extended correspondingly by a maximum of 12 months. The commencement date of the moratorium period should have started no later than December 31, 2020. The HA subsequently issued two additional side letters in November 2020 and June 2021 to the participating financial institutions to extend the then time-limited arrangement for six months on each occasion, allowing the commencement date to start no later than December 31, 2021.

"Having regard to the economic conditions amidst the COVID-19 epidemic and the views from participating financial institutions, the HA issued a fresh side letter today to the participating financial institutions confirming and agreeing to the new round of the time-limited arrangement. Commencing today, a moratorium period of a maximum period of 12 months can be provided to all mortgagors irrespective of whether the mortgagors have joined the moratorium plan under the previous rounds of the arrangement. The maximum loan period of the mortgage loan can be extended by the total deferred period of the repayment of the principal under the moratorium plan under the previous rounds and the present round," a spokesman for the HA said.

The above moratorium plan is applicable to the SSFS (including Home Ownership Scheme, Private Sector Participation Scheme, Buy or Rent Option Scheme, Tenants Purchase Scheme and Green Form Subsidised Home Ownership Scheme) in the primary market and under the Secondary Market Scheme (SMS).

Considering that a mortgage plan that makes reference to the Hong Kong Interbank Offered Rate (HIBOR Plan) has become a common type of mortgage plan in the market, the HA issued a side letter to participating financial institutions today, allowing them to offer a HIBOR Plan to mortgagors of SSFS flats, in addition to the prevailing mortgage plan that makes reference to the Best Lending Rate (BLR Plan).

"All participating financial institutions may offer a HIBOR Plan to their existing mortgagors, present owners and new purchasers of SSFS flats in the primary market and under the SMS. The launch date of the new arrangement will be November 1, 2022, which has been set to take into account the time required by the participating financial institutions to undertake the

preparatory work," the spokesman said.

If the participating financial institutions approve their existing mortgagors to switch from a BLR Plan to a HIBOR Plan, both parties shall enter into a new legal charge or a deed of variation of legal charge. It is necessary for the mortgagors to submit an application to the Housing Department for change of mortgage arrangement and obtain the relevant consent prior to the execution of the new legal charge or the deed of variation of legal charge.

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## [HAD to open temporary night heat shelters](#)

The Home Affairs Department will open 18 temporary night heat shelters tonight (May 30) for people in need of the service.

The shelters will be open from 10.30pm until 8am tomorrow.

In light of the implementation of mandatory use of the "LeaveHomeSafe" mobile application when entering government premises, all persons are required to use the app to scan the venue QR code before they are allowed to enter temporary night heat shelters, except for exempted persons (including persons who are aged below 12 or aged 65 or above, persons with disabilities that render use of the app difficult and persons without smartphones). All exempted persons are required to complete a prescribed form to register their personal particulars, contact phone number and the date and time of entry. The staff will verify the information provided.

For further information, please call the department's hotline before midnight on 2572 8427.

The night heat shelters are located at:

Hong Kong Districts:

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Central and Western –  
Sai Ying Pun Community Complex Community Hall  
3/F, Sai Ying Pun Community Complex  
2 High Street, Sai Ying Pun

Eastern –  
Causeway Bay Community Centre  
3/F, 7 Fook Yum Road, Causeway Bay

Southern –  
Wah Kwai Community Centre  
Wah Kwai Estate, Kellett Bay

Wan Chai –  
Wan Chai Activities Centre  
LG/F, Wan Chai Market, 258 Queen's Road East, Wan Chai

Kowloon Districts:

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Kowloon City –  
Hung Hom Community Hall  
1/F, Kowloon City Government Offices  
42 Bailey Street, Hung Hom

Kwun Tong –  
Lam Tin (West) Estate Community Centre  
71 Kai Tin Road, Lam Tin

Sham Shui Po –  
Shek Kip Mei Community Hall  
G/F, Block 42, Shek Kip Mei Estate, Sham Shui Po

Wong Tai Sin –  
Tsz Wan Shan (South) Estate Community Centre  
45 Wan Wah Street, Tsz Wan Shan

Yau Tsim Mong –  
Henry G Leong Yaumatei Community Centre  
60 Public Square Street, Yau Ma Tei

New Territories Districts:

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Islands –  
Tung Chung Community Hall  
G/F, Tung Chung Municipal Services Building, 39 Man Tung Road, Tung Chung

Kwai Tsing –  
Kwai Shing Community Hall  
Podium, Block 6, Kwai Shing West Estate, Kwai Chung

North –  
Cheung Wah Community Hall  
Cheung Wah Estate, Fanling

Sai Kung –  
Chi Shin Activity Centre  
G/F, Tseung Kwan O South Ancillary Facilities Block, 5 Chi Shin Street,  
Tseung Kwan O

Sha Tin –  
Lung Hang Estate Community Centre  
Lung Hang Estate, Sha Tin

Tai Po –  
Tai Po Community Centre  
2 Heung Sze Wui Street, Tai Po

Tsuen Wan –  
Lei Muk Shue Community Hall  
G/F, Hong Shue House, Lei Muk Shue Estate, Tsuen Wan

Tuen Mun –  
Wu Shan Road Community Hall  
101 Wu Shan Road, Tuen Mun

Yuen Long –  
Long Ping Community Hall  
Long Ping Estate, Yuen Long

The temporary night heat shelters will resume their functions as community centres or community halls in the daytime for hire by the local community.

People may choose to take refuge from the heat during the daytime in the common areas of the designated community centres and community halls. For the addresses of these designated community centres and community halls, please browse the following document:

[www.had.gov.hk/file\\_manager/en/documents/public\\_services/emergency\\_services/List\\_CH\\_CC\\_Day\\_E.pdf](http://www.had.gov.hk/file_manager/en/documents/public_services/emergency_services/List_CH_CC_Day_E.pdf).

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## **Government makes “restriction-testing declaration” and issues compulsory testing notice in respect of specified “restricted area” in Un Shing House, Un Chau Estate, Sham Shui Po**

The Government today (May 30) exercised the power under the Prevention and Control of Disease (Compulsory Testing for Certain Persons) Regulation (Cap. 599J) to make a "restriction-testing declaration" (declaration) effective from 5pm, under which people (hereafter referred to as "persons

subject to compulsory testing") within the specified "restricted area" in Sham Shui Po (i.e. Un Shing House, Un Chau Estate, excluding kindergarten on the ground floor, see Annex) are required to stay in their premises and undergo compulsory testing. Persons subject to compulsory testing are required to stay in their premises until all such persons identified in the "restricted area" have undergone testing and the test results are mostly ascertained. The Government aims at finishing this exercise at around noon tomorrow (May 31). The operation may be extended depending on test results.

A Government spokesman said, "Under Cap. 599J, the Government can, according to the needs of infection control, make a 'restriction-testing declaration'. Having reviewed a basket of factors, including the viral load in sewage, the information of relevant positive cases, and other circumstantial factors, and conducted a risk assessment, the Government decided to make a 'restriction-testing declaration' for the relevant area."

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building for more than two hours from May 24 to May 30, 2022, even if they were not present in the "restricted area" at the time when the declaration took effect, must undergo compulsory testing on or before June 1, 2022. As a mutant strain is involved, for prudence's sake, vaccinated persons and persons who have recently been tested are also required to undergo testing.

The Electrical and Mechanical Services Department has set up a hotline (Tel: 9637 7067) which started operation at 5pm today for residents restricted by the declaration to make enquiries and seek assistance. The Social Welfare Department will also provide assistance to the affected persons.

The Government appeals to persons subject to compulsory testing for their full co-operation by registering and undergoing testing, and waiting for the results patiently at home. The Government will strictly follow up on whether the persons concerned have complied with the compulsory testing notices and "restriction- testing declaration". Any person who fails to comply with the compulsory testing notices commits an offence and may be fined a fixed penalty of \$10,000. 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 compulsory testing order or the "restriction-testing declaration" is an offence and the offender would be liable to a fine at level 5 (\$50,000) and imprisonment for six months.

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## **Government follows up on positive results of sewage surveillance and appeals to residents to undergo virus testing**

The Government announced today (May 30) that in order to fight the coronavirus epidemic, the Environmental Protection Department and the Drainage Services Department have been collecting sewage samples for virus testing in all districts, and had detected positive results in some areas, indicating that there may be hidden cases in the premises within these areas.

### **Rapid test**

As regards positive sewage testing results with relatively high viral loads in the following areas, the Housing Department and the respective District Offices will commence distributing about 190 000 sets of the COVID-19 rapid antigen test (RAT) kits to residents, cleaning workers and property management staff working in the following areas for them to take the test on their own, in order to help identify infected persons:

- Wong Tai Sin District – Tsz Ching Estate and Tsz Oi Court Stage I to III
- Yau Tsim Mong District – Chungking Mansions, Mirador Mansion, Parc Palais, King's Park Villa, Far East Mansion, residential premises around Haiphong Road, Ashley Road, Hankow Road and Lock Road (See Annex)
- Central and Western District – Residential premises around Conduit Road, Robinson Road and Mosque Street (See Annex)

Members of the public may refer to ([www.coronavirus.gov.hk/rat/eng/rat.html](http://www.coronavirus.gov.hk/rat/eng/rat.html)) for enquiries relating to the use of the RAT kits.

When using an RAT kit, please pay attention to and follow the instructions from the manufacturer to perform the test and read the result properly. It is advisable to record the displayed result by taking a photo immediately after reading. Users should wash their hands before and after performing the tests, and avoid placing non-essential items within the specimen collection area. After completing the test, wrap and seal all components of the test kit carefully and dispose of them properly. If the household environment is contaminated during the specimen collecting process, disinfection should be conducted with 1 in 49 diluted bleach solution or 70 per cent alcohol.

People who obtained a positive result through an RAT for the first time can report via the online platform "Declaration System for individuals tested positive for COVID-19 using Rapid Antigen Test" ([www.chp.gov.hk/ratp](http://www.chp.gov.hk/ratp)). If individuals encounter difficulties using the online platform, they can call the automated system at 183 6119 to register their identification document and telephone number. The Centre for Health Protection of the Department of Health will contact the relevant person later to finish the report procedure.