

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 (May 25) 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
Kowloon Hospital	1	2	–
Prince of Wales Hospital	1	1	–
Tuen Mun Hospital	1	2	–

Thorough cleaning and disinfection operations have been performed in the affected areas by the hospitals. The hospitals will continue to closely monitor the health conditions of patients and staff members, and communicate with the Centre for Health Protection on the latest situation.

There have been no clusters of nosocomial infection cases reported in public hospitals today.

LCQ8: Supply of sports venues

Following is a question by the Hon Ngan Man-yu and a written reply by

the Acting Secretary for Home Affairs, Mr Jack Chan, in the Legislative Council today (May 25):

Question:

It has been reported that as the supply of sports venues under the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) falls short of demand and such venues are often fully booked, some hirers tout their booked sessions for using the LCSD's sports venues for profit (touting activities). In this connection, will the Government inform this Council:

(1) in respect of the LCSD's prevailing measures for combating touting activities, of the following information in each of the past three years:

(i) the number of cases in which the LCSD refused the use of the facility by a hirer because the information on the identity document produced by the hirer upon check-in was inconsistent with the booking record or irregularities were identified, as well as the number of complaints received as a result;

(ii) the number of cases in which the LCSD suspended a hirer's eligibility to book its facilities for 180 days because the hirer had been found to have engaged in unauthorised transfer of the user permit, as well as the number of complaints received as a result; and

(iii) the number of complaints about touting activities received by the LCSD, and the number of such complaints it investigated and followed up;

(2) given that the LCSD has, since the 1st of this month, implemented a new measure to combat touting activities (i.e. arranging for random inspections by its staff during the booked sessions to see if the hirer is present to use the facility), (i) whether there are on-site staff on duty at all the sports venues under the LCSD at present, and (ii) whether the LCSD has sufficient staff on site to conduct random inspections; if so, of the details of the manpower arrangements; if not, whether LCSD will increase its manpower;

(3) whether the LCSD has studied the reasons why its sports venues are often fully booked, and of the solutions for that; and

(4) whether it will take the following measures to alleviate the situation of the supply of sports venues falling short of demand:

(i) review the standards for the provision of sports facilities in the Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines, as well as increase the ratio of sports facilities to population;

(ii) introduce "recreation and sports vouchers" to subsidise members of the public to hire sports venues run by the private sector;

(iii) use some community halls' facilities as temporary sports venues; and

(iv) arrange for schools to open their ball courts for hire by members of the public during non-school hours; if so, of the details; if not, the reasons for that?

Reply:

President,

My reply to the question raised by the Hon Ngan Man-yu is as follows:

(1) In recent years, the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) has adopted a multi-pronged approach comprising an improved booking system, a penalty mechanism and stepped-up inspection to combat touting activities. The department imposes penalties on individuals who fail to show up or breach the regulations. Two no-show records within 30 days will incur suspension of a person's rights to book the sports facilities for 90 days. If a hirer is found to have engaged in unauthorised transfer of user permit, his/her booking right for sports facilities will be suspended for 180 days.

As required under the Conditions of Use of LCSD Recreation and Sports Facilities (Conditions of Use), hirers must produce valid user permits with their identity documents for verification by on-site staff before using the facilities. If the identity document provided by the hirer is inconsistent with the department's booking record, his/her right to use the facility will be rejected by the LCSD immediately. Failure of a hirer to take up the booked session according to the relevant requirements and the aforesaid procedures will be counted as one no-show record. Two no-show records within 30 consecutive days will incur suspension of a person's rights to book the LCSD's fee-charging recreation and sports facilities for 90 days. In the past three years, there were more than 137 000 cases involving refused use of the relevant facilities due to the hirer's failure to take up the booked sessions in person or discrepancy between the identity document provided by user and that on the booking record. Among them, more than 8 000 members of the public with two no-show records had their booking rights for the LCSD's fee-charging recreation and sports facilities suspended for 90 days. Moreover, two hirers had their booking rights for sports facilities suspended for 180 days due to their engagement in unauthorised transfer of user permit. The number of relevant cases is at Annex I.

To take appropriate follow-up actions against touting activities, the LCSD will, upon receipt of complaints, conduct investigation and take follow-up actions as appropriate, including conducting surprise inspections during the booked sessions, requiring the hirer to provide his/her identity document for checking again, etc. If any irregularities are identified, offenders will be penalised in accordance with the related penalties. In the past three years, the LCSD received 900 complaints about touting activities and conducted investigation and follow-up actions accordingly under the aforesaid mechanism. The number of relevant complaints is at Annex II.

(2) To further combat touting activities, the LCSD has implemented a new measure starting from May 1, 2022. In accordance with the provisions of the

Conditions of Use, the hirer must be present during the use of the booked sessions. Random inspections will be conducted by venue staff during the booked sessions. If the hirer is not present during the use of the facilities, it will result in one count of breach of Conditions of Use by the hirer. Any two counts of breach within 30 consecutive days will result in suspension of the relevant person's rights to book the fee-charging recreation and sports facilities of the LCSD for 90 days. As at May 20, 2022, there were more than 200 occasions where hirers were found not present at the venues and 10 of them with two no-show records had their booking rights for venues suspended for 90 days. The new measure is currently enforced by more than 350 on-site staff at the relevant LCSD venues. There is no need to deploy additional manpower at this stage.

(3) In view of the first phase of the relaxation of social distancing measures, the LCSD reopened 61 out of a total of 103 sports centres (i.e. about 60 per cent) under its management on April 21, 2022. As some of the sports centres were still being used for anti-epidemic purposes at that time, there were fewer venues available for public use, leading to a tight supply of facilities. With the easing of the epidemic situation, relevant bureaux and departments have returned some of the sports centres to the LCSD. It is expected that by mid-June, about 20 sports centres will be reopened and about 80 per cent of the sports centres will be available for public use. This will help alleviate the prevailing tight supply situation.

Besides, following the population growth and the increasing number of people participating in sports activities, the Government announced in the Policy Address in January 2017 the Five-year Plan for Sports and Recreational Facilities (the Five-year Plan) to develop new or improve existing sports and recreation facilities. Through implementing the Five-year Plan, we have made continuous efforts to increase and improve sports facilities and open spaces, with a view to encouraging members of the public to exercise regularly and improving the quality of living, providing additional venues for training by national sports associations (NSAs) and athletes, and facilitating the diversification of sports development. Four sports centres, namely Tsuen Wan Sports Centre, Siu Lun Sports Centre, Che Kung Temple Sports Centre and Choi Wing Road Sports Centre, have been completed and commissioned since 2018. Furthermore, Sham Shui Po Sports Centre is expected to be commissioned in the third quarter of 2022. The LCSD will provide more sports facilities for public use in future.

(4) (i) The Home Affairs Bureau (HAB) reported to the Panel on Home Affairs of the Legislative Council on September 27, 2021 on the Consultancy Study on Provision of Sports Facilities in Hong Kong conducted by the consultants. The consultants conducted a telephone survey to collect the latest preferences of the general public on sports activities and provided recommendations on the planning of community sports facilities for them. Besides, the consultants surveyed the need of various stakeholders such as the NSAs on their demand and usage of the current sports facilities, thereby worked out the number of additional territorial and regional sports facilities required in five and 10 years' time to cater for athletes' training and competition needs so identified. The consultants recommended formulating a facility hierarchy,

devising new population-based provision standards for core sports facilities for community usage as well as introducing a new methodology to assess provision levels for sports facilities, etc. Taking into account of the consultants' overall recommendation, revision to the Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines will be prepared as necessary.

(ii) Heavily subsidised by the Government, the hire charges of the sports facilities provided by the LCSD are low and have always been maintained at a level affordable to the general public. The LCSD also offers concessionary rates for designated persons (namely the elderly, full-time students, people under the age of 14, and persons with disabilities together with their carers). Apart from the sports facilities provided by the LCSD, other organisations including schools, non-profit making sports organisations and public housing estates provide different sports facilities. Currently, some non-profit making sports organisations such as NSAs and district sports associations have opened up their sports facilities to the public with hire charges comparable to that of similar public sports facilities. Therefore, we do not have plan to introduce "recreation and sports vouchers" to subsidise members of the public to hire sports facilities run by the private sector at this moment.

(iii) The community halls and community centres of the Home Affairs Department provide local organisations with venues for holding various community building/involvement activities, including recreational, cultural and sports related events or training courses, etc, and have already been hired from time to time for use as temporary sports venues for holding sports related events or training courses.

(iv) To encourage schools to open up their facilities for sports use, the HAB and Education Bureau (EDB) jointly launched the Opening up School Facilities for Promotion of Sports Development Scheme (the Scheme) in 2017/18 school year. Schools are encouraged, through financial incentives under the Scheme, to open up their facilities such as school halls, activity rooms, playgrounds, sports grounds and classrooms, for use by NSAs and their affiliated members, district sports associations, sports organisations subvented by the LCSD and other eligible non-profit organisations, to hold sports programmes during non-school hours. Participating schools may levy hire charges as provided under the prevailing guidelines issued by the EDB. They will also receive an additional subsidy from the HAB and the EDB to cover expenses incurred in opening up school facilities and to replace or acquire items required for sports programmes. The Scheme has been well received by the sports sector and schools since its launch. Details of participation in the Scheme since 2017/18 school year are as follows:

School Year	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20*	2020/21*
Number of participating schools	134	136	132	126
Number of schools paired with sports organisations	12	27	48	45

Number of sports organisations paired up with schools	15	20	28	33
Number of programmes	38	162	123	168
Number of attendances	1 333	3 392	5 207	5 705

*Schools were suspended most of the time in 2019/20 and 2020/21 school years to avoid social contact and reduce the risk of infection during the COVID-19 pandemic. The sports programmes originally planned to be held in schools were thus affected.

Government makes “restriction-testing declaration” and issues compulsory testing notice in respect of specified “restricted area” in Wah Sui House, Tin Wah Estate, Tin Shui Wai

The Government today (May 25) 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 Tin Shui Wai (i.e. Wah Sui House, Tin Wah Estate, Tin Shui Wai, 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 26). 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 19 to May 25, 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 May 27, 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: 2448 1723) 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.

Government makes "restriction-testing declaration" and issues compulsory testing notice in respect of specified "restricted area" in Hing Wan House, Sui Wo Court, Sha Tin

The Government today (May 25) 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 5.30pm, under which people (hereafter referred to as "persons subject to compulsory testing") within the specified "restricted area" in Sha Tin (i.e. Hing Wan House, Sui Wo Court, Sha Tin, 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 26). The operation may be extended depending on test results.

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LCQ17: Licensing Examination of Medical Council of Hong Kong

Following is a question by the Hon Chan Hoi-yan and a written reply by

the Secretary for Food and Health, Professor Sophia Chan, in the Legislative Council today (May 25):

Question:

It is learnt that in the past two years, the various parts of the licensing examination (LE) administered by the Medical Council of Hong Kong (MCHK) were repeatedly cancelled due to the epidemic. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council:

(1) whether it knows the number of candidates who passed LE and obtained the practising qualifications in each of the past 10 years;

(2) whether it knows the respective numbers of candidates who completed the various parts of LE (namely Examination in Professional Knowledge, Proficiency Test in Medical English, and Clinical Examination) in each of the past five years;

(3) whether it knows the number of candidates who were affected by the cancellation of LEs in the past two years, and whether the authorities and MCHK have provided such persons with the necessary support; if they have, of the details; if not, the reasons for that;

(4) given that MCHK has cancelled the Clinical Examination originally scheduled for this month on the grounds of the epidemic again, and quite a number of medical practitioners are concerned that the cancellation of the examination by MCHK when the epidemic has subsided will further delay the manpower supply of medical practitioners, whether the Government has gained an understanding from MCHK about the biggest difficulty faced by it in holding the examination this month as scheduled; and

(5) whether it has assessed the impacts of repeated cancellation of LEs on the manpower supply of medical practitioners; if so, of the details; if not, the reasons for that?

Reply:

President,

As a statutory professional regulatory body, the Medical Council of Hong Kong (MCHK) acts in accordance with its functions under the law, including the conduct of Licensing Examination (LE) to enable non-locally trained doctors to obtain full registration in Hong Kong.

In consultation with the MCHK, the reply to the question raised by the Hon Chan Hoi-yan is as follows:

(1) The numbers of candidates who passed the LE of the MCHK in the past 10 years (i.e. for the period from 2012 to 2021) are as follows:

Year	Number of candidates
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2012	47
2013	46
2014	74
2015	40
2016	41
2017	53
2018	51
2019	53
2020	0 (Note)
2021	34 (Note) (Only the relevant number of candidates in the 2021 LE (Second Sitting) is included)

(2) The LE of the MCHK comprises three parts, namely Part I: Examination in Professional Knowledge; Part II: Proficiency Test in Medical English; and Part III: Clinical Examination. The Clinical Examination covers four disciplines, namely medicine, surgery, obstetrics and gynaecology and paediatrics. Candidates must pass Part I and Part II before applying to sit for Part III.

The numbers of candidates who sat for the various parts of the LE of the MCHK and the numbers of those who passed the examination in the past five years (i.e. for the period from 2017 to 2021) are as follows:

Year	Part I: Examination in Professional Knowledge		Part II: Proficiency Test in Medical English		Part III: Clinical Examination	
	Number who sat the examination	Number who passed the examination	Number who sat the examination	Number who passed the examination	Number who sat the examination	Number who passed the examination
2017 (First Sitting)	109	31	45	40	63	27
2017 (Second Sitting)	116	29	44	44	63	26
2018 (First Sitting)	122	24	52	48	54	25
2018 (Second Sitting)	117	40	56	46	56	26
2019 (First Sitting)	145	53	80	58	70	21
2019 (Second Sitting)	124	18	69	61	70	32

2020 (First Sitting)	Examination cancelled					
2020 (Second Sitting)	Examination cancelled					
2021 (First Sitting)	106	42	60	60	Examination cancelled	
2021 (Second Sitting)	73	27	28	19	68	34

(3) Due to the COVID-19 epidemic, the MCHK cancelled the two LEs originally scheduled for 2020, Part III: Clinical Examination of the 2021 LE (First Sitting) and Part III: Clinical Examination of the 2022 LE (First Sitting).

For the two LEs (Part I and Part II) originally scheduled for 2020, each received about 150 applications from eligible candidates. Even if the two examinations were not cancelled, due to the epidemic development, various quarantine requirements and border control restrictions, the actual number of candidates coming to Hong Kong for the examinations might have been smaller than that number.

For Part III: Clinical Examination, four sittings were cancelled, namely the 2020 LE (First and Second Sittings), the 2021 LE (First Sitting) and the 2022 LE (First Sitting). As the MCHK cancelled these examinations before the application periods, there was no information on the respective numbers of candidates.

According to the MCHK's current guidelines on the validity of passes, candidates who have passed Part I and Part II may apply to sit for Part III: Clinical Examination up to five times within five years. In addition, a candidate who has passed three out of the four disciplines in Part III in one go can retain those passes for one further attempt for the failed discipline in either of the following two scheduled sittings.

As the two LEs scheduled for 2020 and Part III: Clinical Examination of the 2021 LE (First Sitting) and the 2022 LE (First Sitting) were cancelled, the MCHK has accordingly extended the validity of relevant passes obtained by the candidates in different parts of the LE.

(4) and (5) Having regard to the drastic deterioration of the epidemic situation in the fifth wave of the COVID-19 in Hong Kong, and the need to safeguard public health and safety while ensuring the smooth operation of LEs, the MCHK has decided to cancel Part III: Clinical Examination of the 2022 LE (First Sitting) scheduled for May 2022.

The Government has been closely monitoring the supply of doctors and adopting a multi-pronged approach to address the shortage of doctors in our healthcare system. Apart from continuously increasing the number of local medical training places, the Government has also been actively seeking to attract qualified non-locally trained doctors to practise in Hong Kong

through various means, including improving the LE arrangements; enhancing the attractiveness of limited registration; promoting the various registration pathways to persons residing outside Hong Kong and amending the Medical Registration Ordinance (Cap. 161) to create a new pathway for non-locally trained doctors to obtain full registration in Hong Kong as an alternative to the current pathway of passing the LE, subject to certain criteria being met. The Government also announced the first batch of 27 recognised medical qualifications in end April 2022.

The Government will continue to maintain close liaison with the MCHK to ensure that it will continue to conduct the LE regularly for qualified non-locally trained doctors to obtain full registration in Hong Kong.

Note: Due to the COVID-19 epidemic, the MCHK cancelled the two LEs originally scheduled for 2020 as well as the 2021 LE (First Sitting).