

SWD staff member tests preliminarily positive for COVID-19

The Social Welfare Department (SWD) today (January 30) said that a staff member of the Finance Branch has tested preliminarily positive for COVID-19.

The staff member had no contact with members of the public in his daily work. He last performed duties on the 23rd floor of Southorn Centre from January 24 to 26 and on the 10th floor of Wu Chung House on January 28. He had been wearing a mask when performing duties. His body temperature was normal when undergoing temperature screening during work.

Thorough cleaning and disinfection has been arranged at the premises concerned. The SWD will maintain close contact with the Centre for Health Protection of the Department of Health to take follow-up action as appropriate. The SWD offices on the 23rd floor of Southorn Centre, including the service counter of the Payment Control Section, and on the 10th floor of Wu Chung House will be closed tomorrow (January 31).

During the pandemic, the department has been strictly implementing various disease prevention measures, including measuring the body temperature of people entering the office and providing masks and other personal protective equipment for staff. Staff members are reminded to pay attention to personal hygiene and to stay vigilant. They should seek medical advice immediately if feeling unwell.

Government resumes quarantine-free arrangements for arrivals from Zhuhai to Hong Kong through Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge under Return2hk and Come2hk Schemes

The Government announced today (January 30) that given Xiangzhou District of Zhuhai in Guangdong Province has been removed from the "list of at-risk places temporarily inapplicable under the Return2hk/Come2hk Scheme", from January 31 onwards, persons who have fulfilled all specified conditions of the Return2hk Scheme or Come2hk Scheme will be exempted from compulsory quarantine upon entry into Hong Kong from the Zhuhai Port through the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge (HZMB) under the relevant Schemes. From 0.00 am on January 31, the online booking systems of the two Schemes mentioned above

will be open for quota application for persons entering Hong Kong from the Zhuhai Port through HZMB.

A Government spokesman reminded that all arrivals in Hong Kong under the Return2hk Scheme and the Come2hk Scheme would still be subject to compulsory tests on specified dates under the established requirements of the Schemes. They should also exercise self-monitoring of their health conditions upon arrival.

Details of the above two Schemes are available at the respective thematic websites:

- Return2hk Scheme: return2hk.gov.hk or www.return2hk.gov.hk; and

- Come2hk Scheme: come2hk.gov.hk or www.come2hk.gov.hk.

[HAD opens temporary cold shelters](#)

In view of the cold weather, the Home Affairs Department has opened 18 temporary shelters today (January 30) for people in need of the service.

The temporary shelters will remain open during the daytime tomorrow (January 31) when the Cold Weather Warning is still in force.

To ensure that cold shelter users can rest in a quiet and undisturbed environment, members of the public or agencies wishing to make donations to shelter users are requested to register with the staff of the shelter first. Donors will then be directed to place the donated items at a specified indoor location. The staff will help notify the shelter users to collect the items on their own.

Anyone seeking temporary refuge or with any questions about the donation arrangements at the cold shelters may call the department's hotline 2572 8427 for more information.

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 cold 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.

The 18 temporary cold shelters are located at:

Hong Kong Island:

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:

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:

Nam Cheong District Community Centre

1 Cheong San Lane, 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:

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:
Butterfly Bay Community Centre
Butterfly Estate (near Tip Sum House), Tuen Mun

Yuen Long:
Long Ping Community Hall
Long Ping Estate, Yuen Long

Dynamic “zero infection” most effective way to fight epidemic

In response to media enquiries about whether discussions on the effectiveness of the "zero infection" target in the fight against the epidemic would violate the Hong Kong National Security Law, a spokesman for the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government said today (January 30) that making general remarks and discussion is not illegal, and that dynamic "zero infection" is the most effective way to fight against the epidemic and protect public health and safety.

The spokesman said that the global situation of COVID-19 infection remains severe, and there is a continuous increase in the number of cases

involving mutant Omicron strains that carry higher transmissibility. Hong Kong must cut the transmission chains as quickly as possible, with an aim of achieving dynamic "zero infection", otherwise the consequences could be dire. The Government has strengthened a series of measures to "prevent the importation of cases and the spreading of the virus in the community", with a view to protecting the lives of citizens with the greatest effectiveness.

The spokesman appealed to members of the public once again to receive vaccination under the Government's arrangements. So far, the overall vaccination rate in Hong Kong is not high. More than a million citizens yet to be vaccinated. They may be exposed to a high chance of infection, or even a risk of death.

Vaccination is highly effective in preventing severe cases or death from COVID-19, and Hong Kong is in a race against time in combating the highly transmissible mutant variants. The Government has been strongly appealing to the public to get vaccinated in order to protect the community at large by increasing the vaccination rate in Hong Kong. It is also committed to providing a variety of vaccination channels to enable the public to receive vaccination conveniently. As at January 29, the rate of those who have received the first dose of the vaccine was less than 80 per cent.

Currently, some 500 000 elderly people aged 70 or above still have not yet received their first dose of vaccine. If they unfortunately contract the virus, the chances that they will become severely ill or even die are many times higher than for those vaccinated. The Government has announced measures to encourage the elderly to receive vaccination. As for children, the Government has further extended the age eligibility of vaccination to cover those aged 5 to 11 since January 21. Parents/guardians can make reservations for children to receive vaccination at designated locations. The Government also plans to arrange transport services between schools and vaccination centres and provide an outreach vaccination service at schools.

The spokesman reiterated that the Government continues its aim to achieve dynamic "zero infection" to ensure the effective operation of the public health system, which is the most essential and effective way to safeguard citizens' lives.

Senior Customs Officer preliminarily tests positive for COVID-19

A Senior Customs Officer has preliminarily tested positive for the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). He resides in On Kwai House, Kwai Fuk Court, Kwai Chung and has undergone compulsory testing in accordance with the compulsory testing notice. He was preliminarily tested positive for COVID-19 today (January 30).

The officer is posted to the Shenzhen Bay Control Point and mainly performed cargo clearance duties. His last working day was January 21. He has no travel history in the past 14 days and has been wearing surgical masks when performing duties. Being under medical treatment in hospital, the officer is in stable condition.

C&ED is highly concerned about the incident and has taken the following measures:

(1) All frontline officers working at the Shenzhen Bay Control Point have all along been arranged to conduct COVID-19 tests once every three days. Up till today, test results of the officers are also negative.

(2) All departmental staff who might have been in contact with the officer concerned have already been arranged to undergo COVID-19 tests;

(3) Cleaning and sterilisation arrangements at the concerned working places have been made;

(4) All officers have been further reminded to reduce social contact to minimise risks of infection, and to pay attention to personal hygiene. If feeling unwell, they should consult a doctor and report the case immediately; and

(5) Flexible manpower deployment has been made to ensure provision of services remains unaffected.

C&ED will maintain close communication with the Department of Health and will fully co-operate to trace close contacts of the officer concerned.