

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 57 specified premises/areas during the specified period (persons subject to compulsory testing) to undergo a COVID-19 nucleic acid test.

In view of 12 cases tested preliminarily positive and one import-related case, 50 specified premises are included in the compulsory testing notice. In addition, given some of the hamster samples of a pet shop collected earlier were tested positive, four 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 the multiple tests on time as required. The above compulsory testing requirement applies to those who have completed a COVID-19 vaccination course as well. They are advised to closely monitor their health conditions. They should seek medical attention and undergo testing even if they have only mild symptoms.

Furthermore, since some sewage samples collected in Aberdeen and Sham Tseng have tested positive, one premises and all relevant buildings and structures (except buildings or structures without any domestic uses) within two specified areas in the districts are covered by the compulsory testing notice.

Details of the compulsory testing notice are available on the Centre for Health Protection's website via the following link: (www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/ctn_20220120.pdf).

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.

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 further 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, especially senior citizens, chronic patients and other immunocompromised persons who

face a higher chance of death after COVID-19 infection, to get vaccinated as soon as possible for better self-protection.

Subsequent to the announcement by the Centre for Health Protection (CHP) on the updated quarantine arrangements of local COVID-19 cases with a mutant strain, persons who resided or worked within the same building as the residence of relevant cases will be subject to compulsory testing on specified dates in accordance with the announcement by the Department of Health (DH). They will also be required to undergo self-monitoring until the 21st day (see the details of the buildings and dates of testing at www.coronavirus.gov.hk/pdf/CTN_Specified_premises_and_Dates_of_Testing.pdf). In addition, all household members of close contacts are required to undergo compulsory testing. Any person who had lived with a person placed under quarantine pursuant to section 22 of the Prevention and Control of Disease Regulation (Cap. 599A) (person under quarantine) in the same residential unit on the date of commencement of quarantine or during the 14 days before that day, and who becomes aware of the quarantine of the person under quarantine when the relevant quarantine has not yet been completed, has to undergo testing within two days of him or her becoming aware that the person under quarantine has been placed under quarantine and report to the Government the result of the test by phone (6275 6901), fax (2530 5872) or email (ct@csb.gov.hk) within three days of undergoing the test. For prudence's sake, the above compulsory testing requirement applies to those who have completed a COVID-19 vaccination course as well.

CTCs provide testing services for the public, including free service for persons subject to compulsory testing. 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 on January 20, there were around 11 000 booking places available for today (January 21) at the CTCs, and around 76 per cent and 87 per cent availability for booking places for the coming seven days and 14 days respectively. Members of the public may call the testing centres for enquiries on the availability of bookings or walk-in quotas before visiting the centres.

As a number of locations in Aberdeen will be put under the compulsory testing notice, the Government will set up the following five mobile specimen collection stations in Aberdeen and nearby areas to provide free testing for all local residents and workers (including those subject to compulsory testing) today to enable them to undergo compulsory and voluntary testing:

- Yue Kwong Road Sports Centre
- Aberdeen Sports Centre
- Basketball court of Aberdeen Promenade
- Wong Chuk Hang Recreation Ground
- Lay-by on Nam Ning Street (outside entrance of Carpark of Site 4 & 5,

Aberdeen Centre)

Furthermore, as multiple confirmed cases were detected in Kwai Chung Estate, the Government urges residents and workers of Kwai Chung Estate to undergo testing as soon as possible, and three buildings in the estate (Yat Kwai House, Luk Kwai House and Chin Kwai House) are included in the compulsory testing notice. The Government will set up the following three mobile specimen collection stations in Kwai Chung Estate today to provide free testing for all residents and workers in the estate (including those subject to compulsory testing) to enable them to undergo compulsory and voluntary testing:

- Badminton and basketball courts outside Yat Kwai House
- Badminton and basketball courts outside Luk Kwai House
- Badminton and basketball courts outside Chin Kwai House

The Government will also set up or re-open mobile specimen collection stations at the following locations to provide free services for persons subject to compulsory testing today. Details of the service scope are in the Annex:

- Open space next to Block G of Ming Wah Dai Ha in Shau Kei Wan
- Basketball Court of Ka Lung Court in Tin Wan
- Basketball Court near Fu Yuet House of Fu Cheong Estate in Sham Shui Po
- Open area outside Mei Yue House of Shek Yip Mei Estate
- Open space at 2/F podium outside Tower 2 of Harbour Green in Tai Kok Tsui
- Main entrance on G/F of Grand Central in Kwun Tong
- Pai Min Kok Village in Sham Tseng
- Block 5 and Block 6, Phase 2 of Sea Crest Villa in Sham Tseng
- Outdoor children's play area near Tower 8 of Aegean Coast in So Kwun Wat

The seven mobile specimen collection stations in Sham Shui Po district will continue to operate today for voluntary testing by local residents and workers. The mobile specimen collection stations at Siu Lun Sports Ground, Yau Oi Sports Centre and Yau Oi Estate Football Field in Tuen Mun will continue to operate today, and will be re-opened on January 27 (Thursday). The service period of the mobile specimen collection station at Kin Sang Community Hall in Tuen Mun will be extended to January 28 (Friday).

Free testing service will be provided to persons subject to compulsory testing at CTCs and mobile specimen collection stations located at 77 places in various districts today. The testing capacity should be sufficient to meet the demand. Persons subject to compulsory testing and those who received the "LeaveHomeSafe" COVID-19 exposure notification or SMS notification from the CHP reminding them to undergo testing as soon as possible may conduct free testing at CTCs or mobile specimen collection stations (if the service scope is applicable). The opening dates and operating hours of the mobile specimen collection stations are stated in the Annex.

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

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.

If a person subject to compulsory testing obtains a medical certificate issued by a registered medical practitioner, proving that he or she is unfit to undergo testing using a sample taken through combined nasal and throat swabs because of health reasons, then he or she may choose to undergo testing via the following routes by providing a deep throat saliva sample:

1. To obtain a deep throat saliva specimen collection pack from any of the 120 post offices, vending machines set up at 20 MTR stations or 47 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 spokesman for the Food and Health Bureau cautioned that testing received at the Accident and Emergency Departments of the Hospital Authority or during hospital stays, 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.

Furthermore, persons subject to testing under the compulsory testing notices should, as far as reasonably practicable, take appropriate personal disease prevention measures including wearing a mask and maintaining hand hygiene, and, unless for the purpose of undergoing the specified test, stay at their place of residence and avoid going out until the test result is ascertained as far as possible.

Any enquiries on compulsory testing arrangements may be addressed to the hotline at 6275 6901, which operates daily from 9am to 6pm. If persons subject to compulsory testing plan to conduct testing at any of the CTCs, they can check the centre's appointment status in advance. The hotlines of the CTCs are available at www.communitytest.gov.hk/en/info.

The Government will continue to trace possibly infected persons who had been to the 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 may be fined a fixed penalty of \$5,000. 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 order is an offence and the offender would be liable to a fine at level 4 (\$25,000) 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."

CHP follows up on three cases tested positive and 13 cases tested preliminarily positive for SARS-CoV-2 virus related to Yat Kwai House of Kwai Chung Estate

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health today (January 21) said in view of the recently occurred three cases tested positive (cases 13085, 13090 and 13100) and 13 cases tested preliminarily positive for SARS-CoV-2 virus related to Yat Kwai House, Kwai Chung Estate, Kwai Chung, which involved 12 units on 11 floors facing 10 different directions, the CHP is proactively following up to investigate whether the infections of the cases that tested preliminarily positive are related to the cases that tested positive earlier, so as to stop the potential risk of

further spread of the virus.

The 16 cases involved 15 residents and a security guard working in morning shift at that building. Due to the emergence of numerous cases that tested positive and preliminarily positive at the building, the CHP co-ordinated with related government departments and experts and conducted a site inspection yesterday evening (January 20) at Yat Kwai House, including the floors and units concerned, to investigate and examine if environmental factors were involved in the infection of those cases. After analysing the environmental factors at scene and the latest epidemiological information, experts agreed that no building structure, air flow and pipe issues are involved in the transmission of virus.

Further epidemiological information revealed that an earlier case 13064 went to Yat Kwai House, Chin Kwai House and Luk Kwai House of Kwai Chung Estate on January 13, and stayed in the garbage room of the buildings concerned. Experts preliminarily opined that case 13064 spread the virus to relevant workers or residents of that building during his stay at Yat Kwai House.

Experts believed that no building structure problems leading to current virus transmission and there is no need to evacuate all residents for compulsory quarantine at this stage. The CHP decided to carry out prudent measures on infection control. The Government will make a "restriction-testing declaration" at Yat Kwai House and arrange all residents to carry out daily compulsory testing starting from today to January 23. Arrangements have been 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. Residents would also need to complete the remaining three tests after January 23 in accordance with the compulsory testing notice.

For any person who had been present at Chin Kwai House and Luk Kwai House of Kwai Chung Estate for more than two hours at any time during the period from January 13 to 20 (including but not limited to residents, visitors and workers), they have to undergo testing according to the relevant compulsory testing notice.

The CHP strongly reminded members of the public to strictly follow the compulsory testing requirements and undergo the multiple tests on time as required. The compulsory testing requirement applies to those who have completed a COVID-19 vaccination course as well. The Government will seriously verify whether they have complied with the testing notices. Any person who fails to comply with the testing notices commits an offence and may be fined a fixed penalty of \$5,000. 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 order is an offence and the offender would be liable to a fine at level 4 (\$25,000) and imprisonment for six months. Relevant officers of different government departments are empowered to perform certain functions under the relevant Regulations under the Prevention and Control of Disease Ordinance (Cap. 599), including requesting individuals to provide information and assistance when necessary.

Any person who fails to comply with the relevant request commits an offence and would be liable to a fine at level 3 (\$10,000). The Government reiterates that the aim of issuing a compulsory testing notice is to stop the spread of COVID-19 in the community as soon as possible to protect overall public health and safety.

AFCD condemns action to stop others from surrendering hamsters

In response to some people stopping others from surrendering hamsters and taking over hamsters members of the public intended to surrender to the New Territories South Animal Management Centre (NTSAMC) of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD), the AFCD condemns such action and stresses that it obstructs the department from carrying out its work, and will also pose health risks to themselves and public. The AFCD demands them to stop such action immediately and return the hamsters taken away.

An AFCD spokesman said, "The basis of the AFCD's strong advice to members of the public to surrender their hamsters purchased in local pet shops on or after December 22, 2021, to the department for humane dispatch is that a pet shop worker was confirmed to be infected with COVID-19 and samples taken from hamsters in the pet shop concerned tested positive for the COVID-19 virus. Hence, there is evidence showing that the hamsters concerned were infected with the virus. Onset of symptoms may not be triggered immediately after the hamsters have been infected and negative test results at the moment do not necessarily mean that the hamsters concerned have not been infected. In other words, touching or keeping these hamsters can cause infection and also risk spreading the virus."

"According to AFCD's records, recently only two consignments of hamsters were imported into Hong Kong on December 22, 2021 and January 7, 2022 respectively. Upon consulting experts, the AFCD opined that the two consignments of hamsters have a higher risk of carrying the COVID-19 virus, while hamsters imported into Hong Kong beforehand is relatively less risky. Thus, the AFCD strongly advises members of the public to surrender hamsters purchased in local pet shops on or after December 22 last year to the department for humane dispatch. Those purchased before the date can be kept," the spokesman reiterated.

As at January 20, 68 hamsters have been received by the NTSAMC.

Under the premise of safeguarding public health, the spokesman demands them to refrain from stopping members of the public to surrender hamsters immediately and return those hamsters taken away. The AFCD reported the case yesterday (January 20) to the police. If the people concerned continue with such action, or fail to return the hamsters taken away, the AFCD will

stringently follow up and hand it over to the police for handling.

[Home Affairs Department provides assistance to Sham Shui Po residents to facilitate voluntary testing \(with photo\)](#)

In view of suspected silent transmission chains in Sham Shui Po district recently, the Government has urged residents and those working in Sham Shui Po to undergo voluntary testing as soon as possible. To facilitate residents in the district to undergo testing as soon as possible, the Home Affairs Department (HAD) and the Sham Shui Po District Office (SSPDO), have taken a number of measures in Sham Shui Po district to support the residents fighting against the disease.

Apart from the Pak Tin Community Hall and Lai Kok Community Hall, the SSPDO assisted testing operators in setting up six additional mobile specimen stations in the district (including those at Tai Hang Tung Community Centre, Maple Street Playground, Cheung Sha Wan Playground, Cheung Sha Wan Sports Centre, Po On Road Playground and Lai Chi Kok Park entrance) and assigned staff to help maintain order and answer public enquiries, and divert the crowd to other less crowded mobile specimen stations when necessary. To facilitate the public in obtaining the latest information about the operation of the testing stations, the HAD has displayed relevant information on large TV screens and electronic screens at various locations with more passers-by in the district.

As some of the cases involved ethnic minorities, to facilitate the understanding of the latest information on testing by ethnic minorities in the district, the HAD arranged translation of the leaflet with testing information into various ethnic minority languages, including Urdu, Hindi, Punjabi, Nepali and Bahasa Indonesia, and requested eight support service centres for ethnic minorities to disseminate the information to their service users and upload the information to their websites. The SSPDO also distributed leaflets and made announcements at locations in the district where more ethnic minorities gather, to appeal to them to undergo testing as soon as possible, as well as publicise information on the voluntary testing arrangement at electronic platforms on the commercial buildings in the district, to enhance the dissemination of information on testing to ethnic minorities as well as residents and people working in the district.

In addition, the SSPDO distributed over 15 000 COVID-19 rapid testing kits in Sham Shui Po district, including at schools, markets, shopping

centres and locations that more people gather, for free in the hope of identifying infected persons early, so as to safeguard their health and that of their families, but stressed that rapid test kit testing is not a substitute for the Government's compulsory testing requirement.

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 fight the virus together. 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 that tested positive), to undergo testing promptly for early identification of infected persons to reduce the transmission risks of COVID-19.



[New Territories South Animal Management Centre of AFCD switched to be another quarantine facility for animals related to COVID-19 cases](#)

With a sharp increase in the number of people placed under compulsory quarantine for COVID-19, the demand by pet owners to send their pet animals to the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) for quarantine and veterinary monitoring rises. In this light, the Department needs to have more room to cater for such needs. The AFCD today (January 20) announced that the New Territories South Animal Management Centre (NTSAMC) would be launched tomorrow (January 21) as another quarantine facility for pet animals related to COVID-19 cases. The NTSAMC will cease opening to public and receive any animals except hamsters purchased in local pet shops on or after December 22, 2021 and surrendered by members of the public until further notice. All animals other than those placed under quarantine and

veterinary monitoring, and hamsters, in the NTSAMC will be transferred to other Animal Management Centres for follow-up.

The animal keeping facility at the Hong Kong Port of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge will only be used for quarantine and veterinary monitoring for animals tested positive for the COVID-19 virus.

An AFCD spokesman reminded pet owners to adopt good hygiene practices (including hand washing before and after being around or handling animals, their food or supplies, as well as avoiding kissing them) and to maintain a clean and hygienic household environment. People who are sick should restrict contact with animals. If any changes in the health condition of the pets are spotted, advice from a veterinarian should be sought as soon as possible.