

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

In view of one import-related case, one possibly import-related case and seven cases tested preliminarily positive, 39 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.

Since there was an outbreak of upper respiratory tract infection and/or influenza-like illness in one school, and the symptoms of the diseases concerned are similar to those of COVID-19, for prudence's sake, the relevant school is covered in the compulsory testing notice. Persons who have completed a COVID-19 vaccination course would be taken to have complied with the requirements set out in the compulsory testing notice.

Details of the compulsory testing notice are in Annex 1.

Furthermore, the address of a specified premises included in the compulsory testing notice announced on January 8 should be Kids' Studio Education Centre, Shops 207 & 208, 2/F, Tuen Mun Parklane Square, 2 Tuen Hi Road, Tuen Mun, New Territories, Hong Kong. Any person who had been present at that premises at any time during the period from 2pm to 3pm on January 3 (including but not limited to full-time, part-time and relief staff, students and visitors), has to undergo testing on the specified dates (i.e. January 7 or 8; January 10; January 15; and January 22).

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 10, there were around 20 000 booking places available for today (January 11) at the CTCs, and around 79 per cent availability for booking places for the coming seven days. Members of the public may call the testing centres for enquiries on the availability of bookings or walk-in quotas before visiting the centres.

The Government will set up or re-open mobile specimen collection stations at the following locations today to provide free service for persons subject to compulsory testing, details of the service scope are in Annex 2:

- Kennedy Town Playground
- Maple Street Playground in Sham Shui Po

- Wing Chak House of Chak On Estate in Shek Kip Mei
- Tower 2 of Harbour Green in Tai Kok Tsui
- Tsuen Nam Road in Tai Wai (near Exit A of Tai Wai MTR Station) (open until January 16)
- Tennis court No. 1 of Royal Ascot in Fo Tan
- On Ting/Yau Oi Community Centre in Tuen Mun (open to all local residents and workers)
- Block 2 of Tsui Ning Garden in Tuen Mun
- On Hei House of Siu Hei Court in Tuen Mun
- Tower 8 of Aegean Coast in So Kwun Wat
- Fu Tung Plaza of Fu Tung Estate in Tung Chung
- Open area next to Discovery Bay Fire Station

The service period of the mobile specimen collection stations at Tamar Park in Admiralty and Basketball Court of Tai Po Community Centre will be extended to January 16 (Sunday). The service period of the mobile specimen collection stations at Multi-purpose Hall, 3/F of Causeway Bay Community Centre (near Fortress Hill MTR station), North Point Community Hall and carpark of Quarry Bay Community Hall will be extended to January 19 (Wednesday).

Free testing service will be provided to persons subject to compulsory testing at CTCs and mobile specimen collection stations located at 54 places in various districts today. The testing capacity should be sufficient to meet the demand. Persons subject to compulsory testing and those 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 Annex 2.

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."

[Asian Financial Forum explores into next normal and sustainable future amid gradual recovery of global economy \(with photo/videos\)](#)

The 15th Asian Financial Forum (AFF), co-organised by the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government and the Hong Kong Trade Development Council, opened today (January 10). The two-day event provides a premier platform for thousands of leaders in government, finance and business from over 80 countries and regions to exchange insights and explore business and investment opportunities. It is also one of the events to kick-start celebrations for the 25th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.

Under the theme "Navigating the Next Normal towards a Sustainable Future", the AFF, conducted in virtual format this year due to the latest developments of the COVID-19 pandemic situation, offers a platform to discuss the key factors shaping the future global economic landscape as the world adapts to the new normal, and how different stakeholders can help realise sustainable and inclusive development through impact investment, forward-looking business practices or decisive policies.

The Chief Executive, Mrs Carrie Lam, delivered an address to open the forum this morning. It was followed by keynote speeches by three officials from the Mainland government, namely the Chairman of the Subcommittee for Economic Affairs of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, former Chairman of the China Banking Regulatory Commission, and former Chairman of China Securities Regulatory Commission, Dr Shang Fulin; Vice Chairman of China Securities Regulatory Commission Dr Fang Xinghai; and Vice Chairman of China Banking and Insurance Regulatory Commission Mr Xiao Yuanqi. The Financial Secretary, Mr Paul Chan, will deliver a speech tomorrow (January 11) morning.

Addressing the opening session of the AFF this morning, Mrs Lam pointed out that the forum, through pooling the insight and intelligence of high-profile speakers from around the world, aimed to shed light on how the world could better prepare itself and build a sustainable future amid such

uncertainties as extreme weathers, pandemic outbreaks, geopolitical tensions and diverging fiscal and monetary policies worldwide.

She added that, with "one country, two systems" back on the right track, international investors and observers had shown confidence in Hong Kong. Following the resolute actions of the Central Authorities to enact and implement the National Security Law in June 2020 and improve the electoral system last year to ensure "patriots administering Hong Kong", the financial services sector and institutional strengths of Hong Kong had been fortified. She highlighted Hong Kong's fundraising, asset and wealth management, insurance and financial technology businesses, and more, in which Hong Kong would continue to prosper.

She also stressed that the Government, in collaboration with the financial regulators and the industry, was stepping up the efforts to promote green and sustainable finance in Hong Kong, with a view to contributing to achieving the carbon neutrality goals in Hong Kong and in the Mainland. The Green and Sustainable Finance Cross-Agency Steering Group was also exploring the possibilities of Hong Kong's development as a regional carbon-trading centre, including the creation of a global voluntary carbon market and carbon-market opportunities as part of Hong Kong's growing co-operation with the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area.

"As the business bridge between China and the rest of the world, Hong Kong is well-positioned to connect green and sustainable funds from the Mainland and the world."

Dr Shang said in his keynote speech that, under the new development pattern featuring "dual circulation", the Mainland was fully committed to further reform and opening up, as well as to enhancing co-operation with other countries to tackle global crises. He also noted the importance of Hong Kong as a gateway of trade and investment between the Mainland and the rest of the world, and added that the stable social and political environment in Hong Kong created a conducive business environment and allowed Hong Kong to play the role of international financial centre. Dr Fang and Mr Xiao also shared their insights on the importance of and opportunities presented by the co-operation between the financial markets of Hong Kong and the Mainland.

The Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury, Mr Christopher Hui, spoke at the plenary session on "Navigating the Next Normal towards a Sustainable Future", in which speakers shared their insights on the characteristics of the post-COVID global economic and business new normal, as well as how public and private sectors can collaborate to orient the global economy towards a green future with sustainable growth. Heavyweight speakers joining Mr Hui in this session were the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance of Belgium, Mr Vincent Van Peteghem; the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance of Hungary, Mr Mihály Varga; the Minister of Finance of Thailand, H E Mr Arkhom Termpittayapaisith; the Chairman of the Board of Commissioners of Financial Services Authority of Indonesia, Dr Wimboh Santoso; the Chair of European Securities and Markets Authority, Ms Verena Ross; the President and Chairman of Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, Mr

Jin Liqun; the President of Islamic Development Bank, H E Dr Muhammad Sulaiman Al Jasser; and the President of New Development Bank, Mr Marcos Troyjo.

In the afternoon, the Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Monetary Authority, Mr Eddie Yue, chaired the policy dialogue session. Speakers included the Chief Executive Officer of the Securities and Futures Commission, Mr Ashley Alder; the Governor of Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, Mr Benjamin Estosta Diokno; the President of De Nederlandsche Bank, Mr Klaas Knot; the corporate partner and China Chairman of Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer, Ms Teresa Ko; and the Chairman and President of the Hong Kong Green Finance Association, Dr Ma Jun. This session brought together a group of eminent financial policymakers and industry leaders to exchange views on how the financial system can better support a green and sustainable global recovery while keeping climate-related financial risks at bay.

Amongst others, the highlights of today's programme included two keynote sessions, during which the Special Envoy on Climate Action and Finance of the United Nations, Mr Mark Carney, and the former President of the European Central Bank, Mr Jean-Claude Trichet, delivered keynote speeches on how to build a sustainable financial system and on forging a resilient economy respectively. The Founder and Executive Chairman of Moven, Mr Brett King, will also speak tomorrow on the opportunities and challenges presented by the emergence of new fintech to the banking and financial industries.

In addition, there are panel discussions and thematic workshops covering a wide spectrum of issues including environmental, social and governance (ESG) and sustainability, global economic outlook, asset and wealth management, family office, the enormous opportunities presented by the National 14th Five-Year Plan and the development in the Greater Bay Area. The Deal Flow Matchmaking Sessions and Fireside Chats also provide a platform for investors and industry players to explore co-operation and exchange ideas. A series of Dialogues for Tomorrow are also featured to devote discussion on issues related to the future of fintech, banking, insurance, property, energy, and more.

The forum this year continues to feature the Fintech Showcase, FintechHK Start-up Salon and InnoVenture Salon, as well as the Global Investment Zone, to enable more than 130 local and overseas international financial institutions, technology enterprises, start-ups and investment agencies to present their latest financial innovations, next-generation businesses and investment opportunities across regions and sectors.

The forum will continue tomorrow.



CHP reminds relevant residents to comply with “restriction-testing declaration” operation on case tested preliminarily positive for SARS-CoV-2 virus

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health (DH) today (January 10) reminded members of the public that "restriction-testing declaration" (RTD) have been made for the residence of one of the cases tested preliminarily positive for SARS-CoV-2 virus the CHP is following. The CHP strongly reminds relevant residents that they must comply with the RTD operations. Any person who fails to present an SMS notification with a test result or wear a wristband as proof of having undergone testing breaches the compulsory testing notice and may be liable to a fine of \$5,000. The person will also be issued with a compulsory testing order, requiring him/her to undergo testing within a specified time frame. Failure to comply with the compulsory testing order or the RTD is an offence and the offender may be liable to a fine of level 4 (\$25,000) and imprisonment for six months.

The case involves a 52-year-old male patient living in Mei Foo Sun Chuen Phase 5, Lai Chi Kok. He worked at the CITIC Securities Company Limited in North Point and last went to work on January 5. He is the colleague of case 12825 and 12880. He was classified as a close contact of case 12825 and was arranged to undergo quarantine at the Penny's Bay Quarantine Centre on January 8. He developed sore throat and cough on January 9 and was tested preliminary positive on the same day. He had not received COVID-19 vaccination.

The Government has made a "restriction-testing declaration" tonight for the building where the patient resided (5-7 Nassau Street, Mei Foo Sun Chuen

Phase 5, Lai Chi Kok) and persons who resided or worked at the building will be subject to increased compulsory testing frequency. The places where he had visited during the incubation period will also be included in a compulsory testing notice. Specified persons who were present at the relevant venues at specified periods need to undergo compulsory testing on the specified date.

The spokesman for the CHP said, "The Government has remained vigilant and has been closely monitoring the latest scientific data on mutant strains as well as the epidemic situation of various places. The most stringent anti-epidemic measures will be implemented to prevent the mutant strains from spreading in the local community."

At the moment, the adverse impact on the epidemic situation caused by the newly emerged mutant strains is not fully known yet, but vaccination is still essential to prevent severe cases and deaths from COVID-19 infection. The Government has launched the COVID-19 Vaccination Programme. Members of the public are encouraged to get vaccinated. Details of the programme can be found at the designated website (www.covidvaccine.gov.hk). The CHP also urges all individuals who are in doubt about their own health condition, or individuals with exposure to infection risk, to undergo testing promptly for early identification of infected persons.

Public hospitals daily update on COVID-19 cases

The following is issued on behalf of the Hospital Authority:

As at 9am today (January 10), 12 patients who had tested positive for the SARS-CoV-2 virus (case numbers: 12495, 12508, 12523, 12527, 12529, 12542, 12549, 12559, 12574, 12590, 12596 and 12605) were discharged from hospital in the last 24 hours. So far, a total of 12 296 patients have been discharged.

A total of 390 patients who had tested positive are currently hospitalised in the North Lantau Hospital Hong Kong Infection Control Centre, the Hospital Authority (HA) Infectious Disease Centre, the Community Treatment Facility at AsiaWorld-Expo and a public hospital. All of them are in stable condition.

The HA will maintain close contact with the Centre for Health Protection to monitor the latest developments and to inform the public and healthcare workers on the latest information in a timely manner.

CHP investigates six confirmed and 18 asymptomatic additional SARS-CoV-2 virus cases and identifies 14 additional Omicron cases from previously announced cases

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health (DH) today (January 10) announced the latest epidemic situation of COVID-19. As of 0.00am, January 10, the CHP was investigating six additional confirmed cases and 18 additional asymptomatic cases in the past 24 hours (i.e. there were 24 additional cases tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 virus confirmed by the Public Health Laboratory Services Branch (PHLSB) in those 24 hours). This brings the total number of confirmed cases to 12 792 so far and starting from January 1 recorded with 167 asymptomatic cases. Hong Kong has recorded a total of 12 959 cases tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 virus so far.

The newly reported cases consist of 19 imported case, four cases epidemiologically linked with imported case, and one possibly import-related case. Nineteen of the cases involved mutant strains, mutation test results of two cases are pending, and the viral loads of the remaining three cases are insufficient for mutation tests. The patients comprise eight males and 16 females, aged 20 to 88. For case details and contact tracing information, please see the Annex or the "COVID-19 Thematic Website" (www.coronavirus.gov.hk).

The four cases epidemiologically linked with imported case are 12941 (66-year-old female who lives at the same building as cases 12854, 12909 and 12910, i.e. Mei Sun Building, 4-20 Kau Hui Chik Street, Tai Po), 12960 (51-year-old female who is a close contact of case 12860), 12944 (88-year-old female who is a family member of case 12960 living together) and 12962 (43-year-old female who had a meal with case 12838 before they attended a gathering at Reserva Ibérica Tapas Bar & Restaurant, Causeway Centre, Wan Chai, in the evening on January 3 together). The possibly import-related case is 12945 (20-year-old female who lives in Tower 8, Aegean Coast, Tuen Mun).

A total of 345 cases tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 virus have been reported in the past 14 days (December 27, 2021, to January 9, 2022). Thirty-six of them are epidemiologically linked with imported cases/possibly import-related cases, one is a local case, while the rest are imported cases.

Meanwhile, the whole genome sequencing analysis of cases announced earlier conducted by the PHLSB confirmed that cases 12719, 12721, 12748 to 12750, 12781, 12782, 12788, 12789, 12796 and 12801 to 12804 all carried the Variant of Concern Omicron. Together with the aforementioned cases, there are so far 279 cases involving Omicron in Hong Kong.

Also, as a passenger flight (EK384) operated by Emirates from Dubai, the United Arab Emirates, and Bangkok, Thailand, arriving in Hong Kong on January 8 had nine passengers who tested positive upon arrival, the DH thus invoked the Prevention and Control of Disease (Regulation of Cross-boundary Conveyances and Travellers) Regulation (Cap. 599H) to prohibit the landing of passenger flights from Dubai and Bangkok operated by Emirates in Hong Kong from January 10 to 23.

According to the testing and quarantine arrangements for cases with mutant strains, 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 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).

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 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. 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.

With the higher transmissibility and risk of infection of the Omicron mutant strain, the CHP strongly appeals to the community to comply with the recently tightened social distancing measures in the next two weeks, and to refrain from participating in unnecessary or crowded activities or gatherings (particularly religious or cross-family activities and gatherings). This would lower the risk of infection and prevent the virus from spreading in the community.

The spokesman for the CHP stressed, "The global situation of COVID-19 infection remains severe and there is a continuous increase in the number of cases involving mutant strains that carry higher transmissibility, and there are also reports of breakthrough infections in some vaccinated individuals. The CHP strongly urges members of the public to avoid all non-essential travel outside Hong Kong, in particular to specified places with high risk under the Prevention and Control of Disease (Regulation of Cross-boundary

Conveyances and Travellers) Regulation (Cap. 599H)."