

CEDB co-ordinates anti-epidemic medical supplies from Mainland in full steam

To follow up the second Mainland-Hong Kong thematic meeting on COVID-19 epidemic, the task force of ensuring medical supplies led by the Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development, Mr Edward Yau, is proactively co-ordinating medical supplies from the Mainland to Hong Kong. The first batch of 150 000 boxes of anti-epidemic Chinese medicines donated by our nation, and some previously ordered supplies have arrived at Hong Kong today (February 20).

Mr Yau said, "The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) is grateful to the Central Government for its care of the people of Hong Kong and its strong support for the city's anti-epidemic efforts. Leveraging the Central Authorities' guidance based on their experience in fighting the epidemic, as well as their manpower and resource support, the HKSAR Government will spare no efforts in combating the fifth wave of the epidemic."

Mr Yau said that the task force is working at full speed to co-ordinate the deliveries, ensuring that the large number of medical supplies including rapid antigen test (RAT) kits, masks, medicines, protective gear and medical products from the Mainland are delivered to Hong Kong and distributed to relevant departments, organisations and residents in an orderly manner.

To enhance the capability of "early identification, early isolation and early treatment of the infected", the HKSAR Government is procuring over 100 million RAT kits to substantially ramp up our capacity for rapid testing. The kits will be distributed as a priority to specified high-risk and target groups, such as staff and residents of residential care homes for the elderly and the disabled, medical staff, cleaning staff, property management staff and individuals under home quarantine. The first batch of 10 million RAT kits provided by the Mainland has arrived in batches since yesterday (February 19). The rest of the kits ordered from around the globe including the Mainland will arrive progressively.

Apart from the 150 000 boxes of Chinese medicines donated by our nation today, more than 300 000 boxes of different types of Chinese medicines will be delivered from the Mainland to Hong Kong in batches. The first batch of 25 million KN95 masks provided by the Mainland has also arrived in batches recently.

The Commerce and Economic Development Bureau will continue to co-ordinate with departments and agencies to procure and distribute urgently needed medical supplies to fight the epidemic, and will request for assistance from the Mainland when necessary.

The task force will discuss with the corresponding task forces of the Mainland to ensure that resources can be expeditiously supplied to Hong Kong to cope with the aggravating fifth wave of the epidemic.