

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.