

FEHD arranges COVID-19 testing for slaughterhouse practitioners and enables TWSH to resume limited services

The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) said today (February 26) that, for early detection of infected persons and reduction of the risks of virus transmission, the FEHD has arranged polymerase chain reaction-based nucleic acid tests for COVID-19 for all practitioners of Sheung Shui Slaughterhouse (SSSH) and Tsuen Wan Slaughterhouse (TWSH) this weekend, using specimens taken through combined nasal and throat swabs (specified tests).

The FEHD has sent SMS to practitioners of the two slaughterhouses (including slaughterhouse staff, buyers and staff of importers), reminding them to go to the mobile specimen collection stations at the open space next to Tennis Court no.4 at Tsuen Wan Park or SSSH respectively at specified time today or tomorrow for free testing. Today, a total of 421 slaughterhouse practitioners got test in the two stations. The FEHD strongly appealed to the other practitioners to undergo the tests on Sunday.

The FEHD was informed by the licence holders of SSSH and TWSH earlier that they had manpower shortage because of the epidemic situation, therefore had to suspend their slaughtering services from midnight last night. The FEHD was informed today that, after thorough cleaning and disinfection, the Tsuen Wan Slaughterhouse plans to reopen tomorrow (February 27) to provide limited slaughtering service. In order to allow the TWSH to reopen as soon as possible, while at the same time safeguard the health of the practitioners, the Secretary for Food and Health has exercised her powers under the Prevention and Control of Disease (Compulsory Testing for Certain Persons) Regulation (Cap. 599J) to issue a compulsory testing notice. All practitioners of TWSH will only be allowed to enter the slaughterhouse if they have the SMS notification of having taken the abovementioned specified tests on February 26 or the SMS notification of the negative test results (if already available), and have a negative result of rapid antigen tests taken on February 26 or 27.