

FS visits community testing centre at Hong Kong Science Park

To cut the transmission chains of COVID-19 in the community and curtail the epidemic situation, the Government launched the Universal Community Testing Programme (UCTP) on September 1 to provide a free testing service for the public at over 140 community testing centres. The Financial Secretary, Mr Paul Chan, accompanied by the Secretary for Innovation and Technology, Mr Alfred Sit, visited the community testing centre at the Hong Kong Science Park today (September 4) to inspect the operation of the centre and to give encouragement to the staff members.

Mr Chan was briefed on the operations and watched the workflow from registration to specimen collection at the community testing centre at the Hong Kong Science Park. He praised the healthcare staff and civil servants for performing their duties to fight the virus together. He said he was very pleased that the Hong Kong Science Park community has responded enthusiastically to the UCTP and that the community testing centre at the Hong Kong Science Park has been fully booked in the past few days with a constant stream of people arriving to take the tests at the centre.

Mr Chan said, "The UCTP, by identifying asymptomatic infected persons in the community and providing them with suitable medical treatment, can protect their health and avoid the spread of the disease to their families and friends. After reviewing the operational experience and demand from citizens in the past few days, the Government today announced that the Programme has been extended for four days to September 11. I would like to make an appeal to people who have yet to register to actively participate in the Programme and sign up for the tests. If it is possible to break the hidden chains of infection in the community, people's travelling, social, shopping and consumption activities can resume in a stable and long-term pattern. It could provide the most solid support to business sectors and the overall economy."

Mr Chan, accompanied by the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation (HKSTP), Dr Sunny Chai, and the Chief Executive Officer of the HKSTP, Mr Albert Wong, also took the opportunity to tour the InnoCell, which is currently under construction, after inspecting the community testing centre. The InnoCell will provide short- to medium-term accommodation for the companies in the Hong Kong Science Park, and it is in the first batch of projects being developed in Hong Kong using the Modular Integrated Construction (MiC) method. The final MiC module was installed in May this year and the installation of building services is in progress. The InnoCell is expected to be completed at the end of this year, which is about five months earlier than when it would have been finished if conventional construction techniques were used. It is expected to commence operation early next year.

Mr Chan then moved to the co-working labs and spaces for biomedical technology to understand how the Incu-Bio Programme of the HKSTP supports its

members. He also met with three biomedical technology partner companies of the Park.

The Permanent Secretary for Innovation and Technology, Ms Annie Choi, and the Commissioner for Innovation and Technology, Ms Rebecca Pun, also joined the visit.