

Government completes enforcement action on compulsory testing notice at four buildings in Central and Western District

The Central and Western District Office together with the Office of the Licensing Authority (OLA) of the Home Affairs Department, the Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health, the Central District of the Hong Kong Police Force and the Auxiliary Medical Service (AMS) conducted an enforcement operation today (March 22) at four buildings in Central and Western District, which were included in a compulsory testing notice earlier. The operation started at around 7am and ended at around 10.30am today.

Starting from around 7am today, residents of Woodlands Court, Woodland Court and Woodlands Terrace at 1-4 Woodlands Terrace and Woodland House at 9A-9C Castle Road, Central and Western District, were requested to provide the SMS notification received through a mobile phone or related certification containing the results of COVID-19 tests, to show that they had taken such tests as required pursuant to the compulsory testing notice of the four buildings within the specified period issued by the Government earlier on. The Government arranged for staff to verify the testing certifications of the residents at the entrances/exits of the four buildings, and conducted checks in the buildings to verify whether residents had undergone testing in compliance with the requirements.

During the operation, test records of around 130 residents were checked. Among them, 10 persons were found to have violated the compulsory testing notice. The Government has issued fixed penalties of \$5,000 and/or compulsory testing orders to them, requiring them to undergo testing within a specified period. Non-compliance with a compulsory testing order is an offence, and offenders are liable to a fine of \$25,000 and imprisonment for six months.

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. Persons subject to testing under a compulsory testing notice 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.

The Government wishes to thank the many residents who had complied with the compulsory testing notice for their co-operation to fight against the virus together. The Government will continue to enforce the law strictly. All persons subject to compulsory testing should comply with the compulsory testing notice. Any person who fails to comply with the compulsory testing notice may be liable to a fixed penalty of \$5,000. The person will also be

issued with a compulsory testing order, requiring him or her to undergo testing within a specified time frame. Non-compliance with the order is an offence and the offender may be liable to a fine of \$25,000 and imprisonment for six months.

The Central and Western District Office is grateful for the support and co-operation of the CHP, the Police and the AMS to enable the enforcement action to be carried out smoothly. The Government understands that the enforcement process may cause some inconvenience to the residents, but hopes that the residents can understand.