

Government enforces “restriction-testing declaration” and compulsory testing notice in respect of specified “restricted area” in Ching Ho Estate, Sheung Shui

The Government exercised the power under the Prevention and Control of Disease (Compulsory Testing for Certain Persons) Regulation (Cap. 599J) on February 15 to make a "restriction-testing declaration" effective from 7pm, under which people (hereafter referred to as "persons subject to compulsory testing") within the specified "restricted area" in Sheung Shui (i.e. Ching Long House, Ching Ho Estate, Sheung Shui, excluding The Boys' and Girls' Clubs Association of Hong Kong Jockey Club Fanling Children & Youth Integrated Services Centre (Ching Ho Branch) on G/F) were required to stay in their premises and undergo compulsory testing. The Government yesterday (February 16) extended the period of operation to today (February 17). Persons subject to compulsory testing are required to stay in their premises until all such persons identified in the "restricted area" have undergone testing and the test results are mostly ascertained and they had to undergo two tests under the designated arrangement. In addition, any person who had been present at the above building for more than two hours from February 2 to February 15, 2022, even if they were not present in the "restricted area" at the time when the declaration took effect, must undergo compulsory testing on or before February 17, 2022. The Government has finished the compulsory testing exercise at around 12.30pm today and carried out enforcement actions in the "restricted area" to verify that all people in the "restricted area" have undergone compulsory testing.

Starting from around 12.30pm today, persons in the "restricted area" in Sheung Shui who have undergone testing and are able to present SMS notifications with negative test results as proof of having undergone testing may leave the "restricted area" through the designated exit after providing personal information to a prescribed officer.

The Government set up temporary specimen collection stations in the "restricted area" and requested persons subject to compulsory testing to collect combined nasal and throat swab samples at the stations to undergo a COVID-19 virus test as designated. As at 12am today, a total of 3 410 person-time had undergone testing in the first round and second round of testing. A total of 48 preliminary positive cases and one indeterminate case were found and the Centre for Health Protection of the Department of Health will take follow up action.

Moreover, the Government also assigned staff to visit about 790 households, among which 88 households did not answer the door. The Government

will take measures to follow up.

The Government reiterates that enforcement actions will be taken seriously. Any person who fails to present an SMS notification with a test result as proof of having undergone testing breaches the compulsory testing notice and may be liable to a fine of \$10,000. 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 "restriction-testing declaration" is an offence and the offender may be liable to a fine of level 4 (\$25,000) and imprisonment for six months.