

# Government enforces "restriction-testing declaration" and compulsory testing notice in respect of specified "restricted area" in Wong Tai Sin

The Government yesterday (January 27) exercised the power under the Prevention and Control of Disease (Compulsory Testing for Certain Persons) Regulation (Cap. 599J) to make a "restriction-testing declaration" effective from 10pm yesterday, under which people (hereafter referred to as "persons subject to compulsory testing") within the related area of the specified "restricted area" in Wong Tai Sin (i.e. Block 1 and Block 2 of Hsin Kuang Centre, 120 Lung Cheung Road, Wong Tai Sin) were required to stay in their premises and undergo compulsory testing. Persons subject to compulsory testing are required to stay in their premises until all such persons identified in the related area of the "restricted area" have undergone testing and the test results are mostly ascertained. In addition, the Government had issued a compulsory testing notice yesterday to any person who had been present at the above buildings, Hsin Kuang Centre M2 Square and the carpark thereat for more than two hours from January 14, 2022 to January 27, 2022 to undergo compulsory testing on or before January 29, 2022 even if they were not present in the related area of the "restricted area" at the time when the declaration took effect. The Government finished the compulsory testing exercise at around 10.50am today (January 28) and is now carrying out enforcement actions in the related area of the "restricted area" to verify that all people in the related area of the "restricted area" have undergone compulsory testing. The Government will further announce the revocation time of the declaration.

Starting from around 10.50am today, persons in the related area of the specified "restricted area" in Wong Tai Sin who have undergone testing and are able to present SMS notifications with negative test results or wear wristbands 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 related area of the "restricted area" yesterday 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 before 2am today. Around 1 030 people within the related area of the area had undergone testing, among which one case tested preliminarily positive were found. The Centre for Health Protection of the Department of Health will arrange to follow up.

Moreover, the Government also assigned staff to visit around 490 households within the related area of the "restricted area", among which around 60 households did not answer the door. Those may include some

households undergoing quarantine or isolation. Some units are possibly vacant as well. The Government does not have detailed information in this respect and 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 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 "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.