

Government finishes exercise on “restriction-testing declaration” in respect of specified “restricted area” in Sham Shui Po and enforcement operation for breaches of compulsory testing notice (with photo)

â€‹The Government yesterday (August 4) 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 8pm yesterday, under which people (hereafter referred to as "persons subject to compulsory testing") within the specified "restricted area" in Sham Shui Po (i.e. Block A, Tung Lo Court, 136-154 Tai Po Road, Sham Shui Po (excluding shops at the G/F level of shopping arcade, Tung Lo Court)) were required to stay in their premises and undergo compulsory testing. Persons subject to compulsory testing were required to stay in their premises until all such persons identified in the area had undergone testing and the test results were mostly ascertained. Moreover, the Government issued a compulsory testing notice yesterday, requiring persons who had been present at the above building for more than two hours from July 12 to August 4, 2021, even if they were not present in the "restricted area" at the time when the declaration took effect, to undergo compulsory testing on or before August 6. The Government announced the completion of the compulsory testing exercise at around 6.45am today (August 5) and carried out enforcement action in the "restricted area" afterwards to verify that all people in the "restricted area" had undergone compulsory testing in accordance with the requirements of the relevant declaration and compulsory testing notice. The Government announced that the enforcement operation ended at around 10.45am today.

In this exercise, the Home Affairs Department (HAD) (including the Sham Shui Po District Office), the Hong Kong Police Force, the Tobacco and Alcohol Control Office of the Department of Health, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department, and the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department mobilised around 280 staff to arrange for implementation of the declaration and enforcement actions for breaches of the compulsory testing notice issued earlier.

The Government provided simple food for persons subject to compulsory testing, including canned food, cup noodles and corn kernels, so as to facilitate the dinner arrangements of some persons subject to compulsory testing. One box of masks and bleach were also provided to each person subject to compulsory testing to help them fight against the virus.

The HAD also set up a hotline for people restricted by the declaration to make enquiries and seek assistance.

