

Government follows up on positive results of sewage surveillance and appeals to residents to undergo virus testing

The Government announced today (March 5) that in order to fight the coronavirus epidemic, the Environmental Protection Department and the Drainage Services Department in collaboration with the cross-disciplinary team of the University of Hong Kong had strengthened the sampling of sewage for virus testing in all districts, and had detected positive results in many areas, indicating that there may be hidden cases in the premises within these areas.

Rapid test

As regards positive sewage testing results with relatively high viral loads in the following areas, the respective District Offices will distribute over 180 000 sets of COVID-19 rapid test kits to a total of about 180 000 residents, cleansing workers and property management staff working in the following areas starting from tomorrow (March 6) for them to take the test on their own, in order to help identifying infected persons:

- Southern District – Tin Wan Estate, Hung Fuk Court, Ka Wo Building, Shek Pai Wan Estate, Yue Fai Court and Yue Kwong Chuen
- Wong Tai Sin District – King Hin Court, Sun Lai Garden, Choi Fung Court and Fu Shan Estate
- Kowloon City District – Oi Man Estate, Chun Man Court, Ultima, Dragon View, Greenfield Terrace, Parc Regal, Carmel On The Hill, Harbourfront Landmark, Chun Seen Mei Chuen, Beverly Villas, The Zumurud, The Astoria, Parc Inverness and Cascades
- Yau Tsim Mong District – Parc Palais, King's Park Villa, The Victoria Towers, New Lucky House, Alhambra Building, National Court, United Mansion, Lucky House, Honour House, Carmen's Garden, Tower 1-3 Grand Austin, Metro Harbour View, Island Harbourview, Cosmopolitan Estates, The Long Beach and Hing Wong Mansion
- Wan Chai District/Eastern District – Residential premises near Victoria Park and Tin Hau areas (see Annex)
- Sham Shui Po District – Nam Shan Estate, Parc Oasis, Tai Hang Tung Estate, Tai Hang Sai Estate, Village Gardens, Mount Beacon, Ample Building, Rose Court, Fa Po Villa, Elite Villa and Begonia Court
- Tai Po District – Fu Tip Estate, Tai Po Building, Tai Po Garden, Tse Chong Building, Mountain View Court, Central Plaza, Wing Cheung Building, Wing Fu Building, Po Nga Court, Parc Versailles, Po Heung Estate, Mei Tak Building, Kam Shan, Bong Hing Building, Tai Wo Building, Sui Cheung Building, Kam Fu Building and Shek Ku Lung

Members of the public may refer to (www.youtube.com/watch?v=yzFAUzTtmKk) for enquiries relating to the use of the rapid test kits.

When using a rapid test kit, please pay attention to and follow the instructions from the manufacturer to perform the test and read the result properly. It is advisable to record the displayed result by taking a photo immediately after reading. Users should wash their hands before and after performing the tests, and avoid placing non-essential items within the specimen collection area. After completing the test, wrap and seal all components of the test kit carefully and dispose properly. If the household environment is contaminated during the specimen collecting process, disinfection should be conducted with 1 in 49 diluted bleach solution or 70 per cent alcohol.

If people living or working in the above areas are tested positive with the rapid test kits, they may call 2280 4772, the Government's 24-hour hotline for "persons tested positive with rapid antigen tests in areas with positive sewage testing results" to arrange door-to-door delivery of RAT kits and/or a nasal swab self-sampling kit free of charge. If people wish to undergo PCR testing, they may collect nasal swab specimen and arrange door-to-door collection of the specimen for PCR testing. When severe symptoms (e.g. prolonged fever at 38 degrees Celsius or above, or signs such as shortness of breath, palpitations, chest pain) are developed, members of the public are urged to call the 999 hotline for arranging ambulance transfer to hospital as early as possible.