

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

The Government announced today (March 6) 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 80 000 sets of COVID-19 rapid test kits (RAT) to a total of about 80 000 residents, cleansing workers and property management staff working in the following areas starting from tomorrow (March 7) for them to take the test on their own, in order to help identify infected persons –

- Sha Tin District – Hill Paramount, Julimount Garden, World-Wide Gardens, Golden Lion Garden Stage II and Lung Hang Estate
- Southern District – World Fair Court, Wah Fu (I) Estate, Wah Fu (II) Estate and Pok Fu Lam Terrace
- Kwun Tong District – Tsui Ping (South) Estate
- Yuen Long District – Sun Yuen Long Centre, residential premises near Fung Yau Street North, Fung Yau Street South and Fung Kam Street areas (see Annex)

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.