

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

The Government announced today (February 5) that in order to fight the coronavirus epidemic, the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) 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.

Compulsory testing

In response to the positive sewage testing results in Tuen Mun and Wong Tai Sin, the Government exercises the power under the Prevention and Control of Disease (Compulsory Testing for Certain Persons) Regulation (Cap. 599J) and publishes in the Gazette a compulsory testing notice, requiring any person who had been present at the following specified premises (see Annex) during the specified period to undergo a COVID-19 nucleic acid test –

- Sewage Testing Area Tuen Mun Site-046 (TM-046) – Block 1 & 2, Phase 1 in Tai Hing Garden
- Sewage Testing Area Wong Tai Sin-TTE5 – Yue Tung House, Tung Tau (II) Estate
- Sewage Testing Area Wong Tai Sin-TTE1 – Kwai Tung House, Tung Tau (II) Estate

The Government strongly reminds members of the public to strictly follow the compulsory testing requirements and undergo testing on time as required. The above compulsory testing requirement applies to those who have completed a COVID-19 vaccination course as well. They are advised to closely monitor their health conditions. They should seek medical attention and undergo testing even if they have only mild symptoms.

Details of the compulsory testing notice are available on the website of the Centre for Health Protection, the Department of Health, via www.chp.gov.hk/en/features/105294.html .

Rapid test

As regards positive sewage testing results in Kowloon City, Tai Po, Wan Chai and Central and Western District, the Home Affairs Department (including Kowloon City and Tai Po District Offices) will distribute COVID-19 rapid test kits to residents and all cleansing workers and property management staff

working in the following areas (see Annex) starting from tomorrow (February 6) for them to take the test on their own, in order to help identifying infected persons –

- Sewage Testing Area Kowloon City Site-048 (KC-048) – Kai Ching Estate
- Sewage Testing Area Tai Po Site-8A – Tai Po Tai Yuen Estate, Eightland Gardens, Jade Plaza, Treasure Garden and Mei Sun Building

In addition, the Home Affairs Department (including Wan Chai, and Central and Western District Offices) will distribute three sets of COVID-19 rapid test kits to all cleansing workers and property management staff working in the following area (see Annex) through the Hong Kong Property Services Alliance and the Hong Kong Association of Property Management Companies for them to take the test on their own, in order to help identifying infected persons. The Government appeals to residents and those working in these areas who have been exposed to infection risks to undergo testing on a voluntary basis to achieve "early identification, early isolation and early treatment".

- Sewage Testing Area Wan Chai Site-1A (Area around Peak Road, Magazine Gap Road, and Cotton Tree Drive)

Residents may refer to (www.youtube.com/watch?v=XjLzD3-gab4) for enquiries relating to the use of the rapid test kits.

If positive test result is shown on the test kit, medical attention should be sought at the Accident and Emergency Departments promptly to receive appropriate diagnosis and treatment at the earliest possible time. Residents tested positive should stay home as far as possible to avoid spreading the virus in the community. The Government stresses that rapid test kit testing is not a substitute for the compulsory testing requirement. Individuals who are in doubt about their own health condition, who have visited places with epidemic outbreaks or have had contact with persons tested positive, etc, should undergo testing promptly at testing centres.

In addition, the EPD has uploaded the boundary of places with compulsory testing notice issued due to the sewage samples tested positive and related information to the dashboard of the thematic website "Together, We Fight the Virus", to facilitate the reference from the public, via chp-dashboard.geodata.gov.hk/covid-19/en.html.