

HAD to distribute 300 000 complimentary COVID-19 rapid test kits

The Home Affairs Department (HAD) announced today (January 17) the distribution of 300 000 complimentary COVID-19 rapid test kits to residents in need across all 18 Districts in the coming few weeks.

In view of the suspected existence of silent transmission chains in the community, the Government appeals to persons with infection risks to undergo voluntary testing as soon as possible. The District Offices will distribute COVID-19 rapid test kits to residents in need (including elderly people, foreign domestic helpers and individuals who are in doubt about their own health conditions, etc.) and urge them to take the test by themselves, for effective and early identification of whether they have been infected, so as to better protect infected persons and their families. For details of distribution, please contact the respective District Offices.

The HAD spokesperson stressed that rapid test kit testing is not a substitute for the Government's compulsory testing requirement. Persons subject to testing in accordance with a compulsory testing notice must go to any of the mobile specimen collection stations, community testing centres or recognised local medical testing institutions to undergo professional swab sampling in fulfilling the relevant requirements. In addition, those who feel unwell (even if the symptoms are very mild) should seek medical advice promptly and get tested under the instructions of a healthcare worker.

The Government appeals for the co-operation of members of the public to safeguard the health of themselves and their families by undergoing testing on a voluntary basis and fight the virus together.