<u>Latest situation of online</u> <u>appointments for Universal Community</u> <u>Testing Programme</u>

As at 6pm today (August 31), about 553 000 people have successfully registered for the Universal Community Testing Programme (UCTP), to be launched tomorrow (September 1), since the online booking system commenced operation on August 29.

Ninety-seven community testing centres have been fully booked on September 1, the first day of the UCTP, accounting for nearly 70 per cent of all the 141 community testing centres. A list of these community centres is at Annex 1.

For the period between September 1 and 7, fourteen community testing centres have been fully booked. A list of these community centres is at Annex 2. As places are still available at other community testing centres, members of the public may consider signing up at other centres if their first choice is fully booked.

The UCTP aims at identifying asymptomatic COVID-19 patients, and to cut the transmission chain on the community. The Government has not set any target on the number of participants in the programme.

The Government will closely monitor the booking situation and the operation of the programme to consider whether to extend the programme for not more than seven days.