

Mobile specimen collection stations at Tai Po, Tsuen Wan, Wong Tai Sin, Kwai Shing and Tung Chung continue to provide virus testing service to public

The local COVID-19 epidemic situation is worsening rapidly. The confirmed cases are distributed all over the territory. Some of the confirmed cases are asymptomatic and this indicates the existence of many silent transmission chains in the community. Through mobile specimen collection stations set up earlier in various districts, the Government has been providing free COVID-19 nucleic acid testing services for members of the public.

A Government spokesman said on December 9 that after reviewing the usage and public demand for the testing service, the Government has decided to adjust the service dates of the following mobile specimen collection stations to continue to provide testing service for members of the public until December 14 (Monday) tentatively:

- Basketball Court, Tai Po Community Centre, No. 2 Heung Sze Wui Street, Tai Po
- Sha Tsui Road Playground, Tsuen Wan
- Wong Tai Sin Square
- Kwai Shing Community Hall

The mobile specimen collection station set up at the 7-a-side Hard-surfaced Soccer Pitch, Tung Chung North Park will also continue to provide service until December 19 (Saturday) tentatively. All the mobile specimen collection stations will operate daily from 10am to 8pm.

On the other hand, the mobile specimen collection station set up in Kai Tak Community Hall, Kowloon City has ceased operation on December 9 and the station at the open area outside Tai Wo Neighbourhood Community Centre, Tai Wo Estate, Tai Po will cease operation after December 10.

The opening dates and operating hours of the existing mobile specimen collection stations in various districts providing services for the general public are at the Annex.

A Government spokesman said, "The testing agency will provide specimen collection services by combined nasal and throat swabs at the mobile specimen collection stations for testing free of charge."

Persons who are subject to compulsory testing and undergo testing at the

mobile specimen collection stations will be deemed to have undergone a test at a community testing centre. People whose test results are negative will be informed by SMS through their mobile phones. If any specimen tested shows a preliminarily positive COVID-19 result, the specimen will be referred to the Public Health Laboratory Services Branch of the Department of Health (DH) for a confirmatory test. Confirmed cases will be followed up and announced by the Centre for Health Protection of the DH.

The spokesman urges all individuals who are in doubt about their own health conditions, or individuals with infection risks (such as individuals who visited places with epidemic outbreaks or contacted confirmed cases) to undergo testing promptly for early identification of infected persons.