

Ngau Chi Wan Market to be closed from tonight to Wednesday and Lockhart Road Market to be closed early tonight for deep cleaning and disinfection

The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) today (February 14) announced that in view of cases testing preliminarily positive for COVID-19 found to be related to Ngau Chi Wan Market, for prudence's sake, the market will be closed an hour earlier today at 7pm, as well as all day tomorrow (February 15) and the day after (February 16). Deep cleaning and disinfection will be conducted during the closure period so as to safeguard the health and safety of market stall tenants and the public.

A spokesman for the FEHD said, "The FEHD has cleaned and disinfected the areas where the persons concerned worked. Also, during the deep cleaning and disinfection period, the FEHD staff will thoroughly clean and disinfect communal areas and facilities in the market, and call for co-operation of market tenants to conduct cleaning and disinfection at their respective stalls. In addition, the FEHD will arrange street washing and disinfection in the vicinity of the market."

The FEHD will maintain liaison with tenants of the market, and ask them to go to community testing centres for free testing as soon as possible and obtain negative results before they return to the market to work. If all goes well, the FEHD will reopen the market on February 17 (Thursday) after the completion of the deep cleaning and disinfection work.

In addition, in view of a case testing preliminarily positive for COVID-19 found to be related to Lockhart Road Market in Wan Chai, for prudence's sake and to safeguard the health and safety of market stall tenants and the public, the market will also be closed an hour earlier today at 7pm. Deep cleaning and disinfection in the areas where the person concerned works, as well as the communal areas and facilities in the market, will be conducted during the closure period. Also, the FEHD will call for co-operation of market tenants to conduct cleaning and disinfection at their respective stalls, and arrange street washing and disinfection in the vicinity of the market. The FEHD will also ask, in accordance with the Centre of Health Protection's advice, market tenants related to undergo COVID-19 testing.

The spokesman said, "The FEHD attaches importance to the hygiene conditions of public markets. In addition to regular cleaning work in the daytime, market service contractors also conduct thorough cleaning in all markets after the markets are closed every day. With the assistance offered by the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department to the FEHD, we have completed a check on air change and installation of air purifiers according to needs in its markets in 2021; and are now following up with the

installation of UVC sterilisers at escalator handrails at our markets.

"During this epidemic period, the FEHD has already stepped up cleaning and disinfection of communal areas and facilities in the markets, including toilets, escalators, elevators and stair handrails with diluted household bleach regularly every day. Disinfectant hand sanitisers are also provided in the markets for public use."

The FEHD will continue to closely monitor the situation of each market, and will conduct deep cleaning and disinfection work in other markets if necessary so as to maintain environmental hygiene.