

PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF DISEASE (COMPULSORY TESTING FOR CERTAIN PERSONS) REGULATION

Compulsory Testing Notice

I hereby exercise the power conferred on me by section 10(1) of the Prevention and Control of Disease (Compulsory Testing for Certain Persons) Regulation (*the Regulation*) (Chapter 599, sub. leg. J) to:—

Category of Persons

- (I) specify the following category of persons ^[Note 1]:—
- (a) any person who, during the 21-day period before the announcement ^[Note 2], had lived in the building in which the place of residence of a person who is a confirmed case of coronavirus disease 2019 (*COVID-19*) with any variant of concern (*the relevant confirmed case*) as announced by the Department of Health is located ^[Note 3];
 - (b) any person who, during the 21-day period before the announcement ^[Note 2], has as his/her usual place of work the building in which the place of residence of the relevant confirmed case as announced by the Department of Health is located ^[Note 3];

Requirements and Procedure for the Test

- (II) require every person who falls within the category of persons specified in Parts (I)(a) and (I)(b) above to undergo polymerase chain reaction-based nucleic acid tests for the coronavirus disease 2019 (*the Specified Tests*) in compliance with the requirements and procedure set out below:—
- (a) for tests at mobile specimen collection stations:—
 - (i) attend one of the mobile specimen collection stations ^[Note 4] set up by the Government on the 3rd day, 7th day, 12th day and 19th day ^[Note 2] following the announcement of the relevant confirmed case by the Department of Health;
 - (ii) undergo the Specified Tests, including providing samples, in accordance with the instructions given by the staff at the stations; and
 - (iii) keep the SMS (mobile phone text message) notifications containing the result of the tests, and provide the relevant SMS notifications for checking by a prescribed officer when the prescribed officer requires the person to provide information about his or her undergoing the Specified Tests;

OR

- (b) for tests at Community Testing Centres:—
 - (i) attend one of the Community Testing Centres ^[Note 5] set up by the Government on the 3rd day, 7th day, 12th day and 19th day ^[Note 2] following the announcement of the relevant confirmed case by the Department of Health;
 - (ii) undergo the Specified Tests, including providing samples, in accordance with the instructions given by the staff at the centre; and
 - (iii) keep the SMS (mobile phone text message) notifications containing the result of the tests, and provide the relevant SMS notifications for checking by a prescribed officer when the prescribed officer requires the person to provide information about his or her undergoing the Specified Tests;

OR

- (c) for tests with a specimen bottle obtained:—
 - (i) obtain specimen bottles from one of the 121 post offices, 47 general out-patient clinics of the Hospital Authority or vending machines set up at 20 MTR stations ^[Note 6];

- (ii) collect deep throat saliva samples in the specimen bottles as per the guidelines provided together with the specimen bottles;
- (iii) return, on the 3rd day, 7th day, 12th day and 19th day ^[Note 2] following the announcement of the relevant confirmed case by the Department of Health, the specimen bottles with the samples to one of the designated collection points ^[Note 6]; and
- (iv) keep the SMS (mobile phone text message) notifications containing the result of the tests, and provide the relevant SMS notifications for checking by a prescribed officer when the prescribed officer requires the person to provide information about his or her undergoing the Specified Tests;

OR

- (d) for tests using specimen bottles distributed to the building(s) specified in Part (I) above by the Centre for Health Protection (**CHP**) (if applicable):—
 - (i) obtain specimen bottles from the CHP;
 - (ii) collect relevant samples in the aforesaid specimen bottles as per the guidelines in the specimen collection packs;
 - (iii) return, on the 3rd day, 7th day, 12th day and 19th day ^[Note 2] following the announcement of the relevant confirmed case by the Department of Health, the specimen bottles with the samples to one of the designated collection points ^[Note 6]; and
 - (iv) keep the SMS (mobile phone text message) notifications containing the result of the tests, and provide the relevant SMS notifications for checking by a prescribed officer when the prescribed officer requires the person to provide information about his or her undergoing the Specified Tests;

OR

- (e) for tests at general out-patient clinics of the Hospital Authority:—
 - (i) undergo, on the 3rd day, 7th day, 12th day and 19th ^[Note 2] day following the announcement of the relevant confirmed case by the Department of Health, the Specified Tests at general out-patient clinics of the Hospital Authority as instructed by a medical professional of the Hospital Authority; and
 - (ii) keep the SMS (mobile phone text message) notifications containing the result of the tests, and provide the relevant SMS notifications for checking by a prescribed officer when the prescribed officer requires the person to provide information about his or her undergoing the Specified Tests;

OR

- (f) for self-arranged tests:—
 - (i) arrange for the carrying out of the Specified Tests at a laboratory which is included in a list of recognised laboratories for the Specified Test published at the coronavirus disease 2019 thematic website on https://www.coronavirus.gov.hk/pdf/List_of_recognised_laboratories_RTPCR.pdf and which can issue SMS (mobile phone text message) notifications in respect of test results;
 - (ii) undergo, on the 3rd day, 7th day, 12th day and 19th day ^[Note 2] following the announcement of the relevant confirmed case by the Department of Health, the Specified Tests in accordance with the instructions given by the staff of the laboratory; and
 - (iii) keep the SMS (mobile phone text message) notifications containing the result of the tests, and provide the relevant SMS notifications for checking by a prescribed officer when the prescribed officer requires the person to provide information about his or her undergoing the Specified Tests;

(III) require every person who falls within the above category to take appropriate personal disease prevention measures as far as reasonably practicable, including wearing a mask and maintaining hand hygiene; and unless for the purpose of undergoing the Specified Tests, stay at his/her place of residence and avoid going out until the test results are ascertained as far as possible;

Period Specified for the Purpose of Section 14(3)(b) of the Regulation

(IV) specify in relation to the category of persons in Part (I) above the four 30-day periods from the 4th day, 8th day, 13th day and 20th day respectively following the announcement of the relevant confirmed case by the Department of Health as the periods during which a Compulsory Testing Order may be issued under the Regulation upon non-compliance with this Notice;

Appointment of Prescribed Officers

(V) appoint members of the Auxiliary Medical Service and all public officers of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region to perform a function under the Regulation concerning a requirement specified under this Notice ¹Note 7.

Note 1:—

If a person who falls within the category specified in Part (I) above is required to undergo quarantine pursuant to section 22 of the Prevention and Control of Disease Regulation (Chapter 599, sub. leg. A), that person is not required to comply with the requirements set out in this Notice.

The category of persons specified in Part (I) do not include a person who has completed a COVID-19 vaccination course. For both the Sinovac COVID-19 vaccine (*CoronaVac vaccine*) and Fosun Pharma/BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine (*Comirnaty vaccine*), completion of the vaccination course in general means having received two doses of COVID-19 vaccine 14 days ago. For persons previously infected with COVID-19, they may be deemed to have completed the COVID-19 vaccination course after receiving one dose of Comirnaty vaccine or one dose of CoronaVac vaccine 14 days ago. For individuals who received COVID-19 vaccines in places outside of Hong Kong and have received the recommended doses as stipulated in the relevant guidelines, they will also be regarded to have completed the vaccination course of the relevant COVID-19 vaccine, subject to the vaccine used being included on the list of vaccines recognised for this purpose as published on the Government's COVID-19 Thematic Website.

The 14th day before a person has completed a COVID-19 vaccination course is counted by taking the next day after the person received COVID-19 vaccine as the 1st day. For example, for a person who has not been infected with COVID-19 previously and who received the second dose of CoronaVac vaccine or Comirnaty vaccine on 29 April 2021, the "1st day" would be 30 April 2021 and the "14th day" would be 13 May 2021 on which the person would be considered to have completed a COVID-19 vaccination course.

Note 2:—

The 21-day period before the announcement of a confirmed case of COVID-19 with any variant of concern by the Department of Health is counted by taking the day of the announcement as the 21st day. For example, if the Department of Health announced the relevant confirmed case on 7 May 2021, then the "21-day period" would be from 17 April to 7 May 2021.

Note 3:—

The area included in the building in which the place of residence of the relevant confirmed case is located would be that announced by the Department of Health.

Note 4:—

The location, opening hours and target groups (if applicable) of the mobile specimen collection stations are set out in <https://www.coronavirus.gov.hk/eng/early-testing.html>.

Note 5:—

The location and opening hours of the Community Testing Centres are set out in <https://www.communitytest.gov.hk/en/>.

Note 6:—

The location and opening hours of post offices, general out-patient clinics and MTR stations distributing specimen bottles as well as the specimen collection location and time are set out in <https://www.coronavirus.gov.hk/eng/early-testing.html>.

Note 7:—

Under the Regulation, health officers may, without the need of an appointment, perform a function concerning a requirement under a Compulsory Testing Notice.

7 May 2021

Secretary for Food and Health