

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 persons as the specified category of persons ^[Note 1]:—
- (a) persons who are placed under quarantine starting from 30 December 2021 pursuant to section 22 of the Prevention and Control of Disease Regulation (Chapter 599, sub. leg. A); and
 - (b) the persons, upon completion of the aforementioned quarantine, have not undergone testing on the 19th day counting from the day the persons were last exposed to the risk of contracting the coronavirus disease 2019 (*Day 19*) ^[Note 2].

Requirements and Procedure for the Test

- (II) require every person who falls within the above category to undergo a polymerase chain reaction-based nucleic acid test for the coronavirus disease 2019 (*the Specified Test*) in compliance with the requirements and procedure set out below ^[Note 3]:—
- (a) for a test at Community Testing Centres:—
 - (i) attend one of the Community Testing Centres ^[Note 4] set up by the Government on Day 19 during its opening hours;
 - (ii) undergo the Specified Test, including providing a sample taken through combined nasal and throat swabs, in accordance with the instructions given by the staff at the centre; and
 - (iii) keep the SMS (mobile phone text message) notification containing the result of the test, and provide the relevant SMS notification for checking by a prescribed officer when the prescribed officer requires the person to provide information about his or her undergoing the Specified Test;

OR

- (b) for a test using a specimen bottle distributed to the person by the Department of Health (*DH*) (applicable to young children only):—
 - (i) obtain a specimen bottle from the DH;
 - (ii) collect stool sample in the aforesaid specimen bottle as per the guidelines in the specimen collection pack;
 - (iii) return, by Day 19, the specimen bottle with the sample to one of the designated collection points ^[Note 5]; and
 - (iv) keep the SMS (mobile phone text message) notification containing the result of the test, and provide the relevant SMS notification for checking by a prescribed officer when the prescribed officer requires the person to provide information about his or her undergoing the Specified Test;
- (III) require every person who falls within the above category to abide by the following requirements for 7 days following the end of the person's compulsory quarantine:—
- (a) monitor his or her health condition, including taking body temperature twice daily; and
 - (b) take appropriate personal disease prevention measures including wearing a mask and maintaining hand hygiene;

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 30-day periods counting from the day following Day 19 or the 30-day period from the day following the Extended Testing Period due to Inclement Weather ^[Note 6] as the period 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 ^[Note 7].

Note 1:—

If a person who falls within the category specified in Part (I) above is receiving inpatient care in a hospital managed by the Hospital Authority on the required testing date(s), he/she would be taken to have complied with the requirements set out in the compulsory testing notice if he/she informs a medical professional of the Hospital Authority of the applicable testing requirements and follows the testing arrangement as instructed by the hospital concerned during his/her hospitalisation.

Note 2:—

The 19th day counting from the day the relevant person was last exposed to the risk of contracting the coronavirus disease 2019 would be the day as per DH's instruction to that person concerning the relevant test.

Note 3:—

If a person who falls within the category specified in Part (I) above is issued a medical certificate by a registered medical practitioner (*relevant medical certificate*), proving that he/she is unfit to undergo the Specified Test using a sample taken through combined nasal and throat swabs in compliance with the requirements and procedure set out in Part (II) because of health reasons, then he/she may undergo the Specified Test using a deep throat saliva sample in compliance with the requirements and procedure set out below:—

- (a) for a test with a specimen bottle obtained:—
 - (i) obtain a specimen bottle from one of the 120 post offices, 47 general out-patient clinics of the Hospital Authority or vending machines set up at 20 MTR stations ^[Note 5];
 - (ii) collect deep throat saliva sample in the specimen bottle as per the guidelines provided together with the specimen bottle;
 - (iii) return, on Day 19, the specimen bottle with the sample to one of the designated collection points ^[Note 5]; and
 - (iv) keep the SMS (mobile phone text message) notification containing the result of the test and the relevant medical certificate, and provide the relevant SMS notification and relevant medical certificate for checking by a prescribed officer when the prescribed officer requires the person to provide information about his or her undergoing the Specified Test;

OR

- (b) for a test at general out-patient clinics of the Hospital Authority:—
 - (i) undergo, on Day 19, the Specified Test 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) notification containing the result of the test and the relevant medical certificate, and provide the relevant SMS notification and relevant medical certificate for checking by a prescribed officer when the prescribed officer requires the person to provide information about his or her undergoing the Specified Test;

OR

(c) for a self-arranged test using deep throat saliva sample:—

- (i) arrange for the carrying out of the Specified Test at a laboratory which is included in the 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 Day 19, the Specified Test in accordance with the instructions given by the staff of the laboratory; and
- (iii) keep the SMS (mobile phone text message) notification containing the result of the test and the relevant medical certificate, and provide the relevant SMS notification and relevant medical certificate for checking by a prescribed officer when the prescribed officer requires the person to provide information about his or her undergoing the Specified Test.

Note 4:—

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

Note 5:—

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 6:—

If the tropical cyclone signal No. 3 or above is hoisted, or a red/black rainstorm warning signal or “extreme conditions after super typhoons” announced by the Government is/are in force at any time during the period for undergoing the Specified Test, the period for undergoing the Specified Test will be extended for 1 day (*the Extended Testing Period due to Inclement Weather*).

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.

17 January 2022

Secretary for Food and Health