

**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 any person who had been confirmed by the Centre for Health Protection (*CHP*) of the Department of Health as a close contact of coronavirus disease 2019 (*COVID-19*) and placed under quarantine by a health officer in writing at a place that is not a quarantine centre (*the Quarantine Order*), under section 22(1) of the Prevention and Control of Disease Regulation (Chapter 599, sub. leg. A) <sup>[Note 1]</sup>;

**Requirements and Procedure for the Test**

- (II) require every person who falls within the category of persons specified in Part (I) above to undergo tests for COVID-19 (*the Specified Tests*) in compliance with the requirements and procedure set out below:—
- (a) on the 1st day, 2nd day, 3rd day, 4th day and 5th day <sup>[Notes 2 & 4]</sup> counting from the day following the testing or collection of sample of the relevant confirmed case of infection (*the relevant case*), or the day on receiving positive nucleic test results if there is no such testing or collection record (*the reference day*) of the relevant confirmed case of infection <sup>[Notes 5 & 6]</sup> :—
- (i) use Rapid Antigen Test (*RAT*) kits to undergo the Specified Tests as per the guidelines provided together with the RAT kits;
- (ii) record the results in the health surveillance form; and
- (iii) keep photos of the RAT test results for 90 days, and provide the photos 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) (only in respect of persons who are less than three years old on the date of the issue of the Quarantine Order and cannot undergo RAT) for tests with a specimen bottle obtained:—
- (i) obtain specimen bottles from CHP/prescribed officer(s);
- (ii) collect sample in the aforesaid specimen bottles on the 2nd day and 5th day <sup>[Notes 2, 4 & 6]</sup> as per the guidelines in the specimen collection packs;
- (iii) arrange to have another person who is not under quarantine or isolation to return, on the 2nd day and 5th day counting from the reference day the specimen bottles with the sample to one of the designated collection points <sup>[Notes 3 & 7]</sup>; and
- (iv) keep the SMS (mobile phone text message) notifications containing the results of the tests for 90 days, and provide the relevant SMS notifications for checking by a prescribed officer when the prescribed officer requires the person to provide information about his/her undergoing the Specified Tests.
- (III) require every person who falls within the category of persons specified in Part (I) above to take appropriate personal disease prevention measures as far as reasonably practicable, 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:—

- (a) the category of persons required to undergo the Specified Tests in compliance with the requirements and procedure set out in Part (II) above the five 30-day periods counting from the day following the 1st day, 2nd day, 3rd day, 4th day and 5th day respectively; and
- (b) the category of persons required to undergo the Specified Tests in compliance with the requirements and procedure set out in Part (II)(b) above, the two 30-day periods counting from the day following the 2nd day and 5th day respectively; or the 30-day period from the day following the Extended Testing Period due to Inclement Weather <sup>[Note 3]</sup>

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 <sup>[Note 8]</sup>.

G.N. (E.) 325 of 2022 will be suspended upon the commencement of this Notice on 9 December 2022.

#### **Note 1:—**

If a person who falls within the category specified in Part (I) above is receiving inpatient care in a hospital or a community isolation facility 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 or the community isolation facility of the applicable testing requirements and follows the testing arrangement as instructed by the hospital or community isolation facility concerned during his/her hospitalisation or isolation.

#### **Note 2:—**

The 1st day, 2nd day, 3rd day, 4th day and 5th day are counted from the day following the testing or collection of sample of the relevant case, or the day on receiving positive nucleic test results if there is no such testing or collection record. For example, if the testing or collection of sample of the relevant case took place on 1 January 2022, then the “1st day” would be 2 January 2022, the “2nd day” would be 3 January 2022, the “3rd day” would be 4 January 2022, the “4th day” would be 5 January 2022, and the “5th day” would be 6 January 2022.

#### **Note 3:—**

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 in force at any time on the 1st day, 2nd day, 3rd day, 4th day and 5th day counting from the reference day, the period for undergoing the Specified Test will be extended to the next day after the tropical cyclone signal No. 3 or above is no longer hoisted, or a red rainstorm warning signal or the “extreme conditions after super typhoons” announced by the Government has ceased to be in force (*the Extended Testing Period due to Inclement Weather*), except for tests conducted using the RAT test kits.

#### **Note 4:—**

If the 1st day, 2nd day, 3rd day, 4th day and 5th day counting from the reference day (*the testing date*) has already passed on the day on which a health officer issues the quarantine order to the person, then the persons who fall within the category specified in Part (I) above need not undergo testing on such testing date(s) which has already passed.

For example, the person of a relevant case took the test or had his/her sample collected on 1 January 2022 and a health officer issued a quarantine order on 4 January 2022, then the persons who fall within the category specified in Part (I) above are not required to undergo testing on the

testing dates on the 1st day and 2nd day (i.e. 2 January 2022 and 3 January 2022) which have already passed, but are still required to undergo testing on the 3rd day, 4th day and 5th day (i.e. 4 January 2022, 5 January 2022 and 6 January 2022).

**Note 5:—**

If a person who falls within the category specified in Part (I) above has genuine difficulty in complying with the Specified Tests in Part (II)(a) owing to a personal factor such as age or health condition, then he/she may, with permission given by a prescribed officer, undergo the Specified Tests 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) arrange to have another person who is not under quarantine or isolation to obtain specimen bottles from one of the designated post offices, general out-patient clinics of the Hospital Authority or vending machines set up at MTR stations <sup>[Note 7]</sup>;
  - (ii) collect deep throat saliva sample in the aforesaid specimen bottles on the 1st day, 2nd day, 3rd day, 4th day and 5th day as per the guidelines in the specimen collection pack;
  - (iii) arrange to have another person who is not under quarantine or isolation to return, on the 1st day, 2nd day, 3rd day, 4th day and 5th day counting from the reference day, the specimen bottles with the sample to one of the designated collection points <sup>[Note 7]</sup>; and
  - (iv) keep the SMS (mobile phone text message) notifications containing the results 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/her undergoing the Specified Tests.

**Note 6:—**

If, for a person who falls within the category specified in Part (I), the 1st day counting from the reference day falls on any date during the period between 5 December 2022 and 8 December 2022 (both days inclusive), he/she must undergo the Specified Test(s) in compliance with the requirements and procedure set out in Part (II) of this Notice from 9 December 2022 onwards. Upon completion of all applicable test(s) under Part (II) of this Notice, he/she will be taken to have complied with the requirements set out in Part (II) of G.N. (E.) 325 of 2022.

**Note 7:—**

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 [www.coronavirus.gov.hk/eng/early-testing.html](http://www.coronavirus.gov.hk/eng/early-testing.html).

**Note 8:—**

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