

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) ^[Note 1]:—

Requirements and Procedure for the Test

- (II) require every person who falls within the category of persons specified in Part (I) above, and who is three years old or above on the date of the issue of the Quarantine Order, to undergo tests for COVID-19 (*the Specified Tests*) in compliance with the requirements and procedure set out below:—

- (a) on the 1st day, 3rd day, 7th day and 14th day ^[Notes 2, 3 & 4] 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 ^[Note 5 & 6]. :—
- (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, 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;

- (III) require every person who falls within the category of persons specified in Part (I) above, and who is less than three years old on the date of the issue of the Quarantine Order, to undergo the Specified Tests on the 1st day and 7th day ^[Notes 2, 3 & 4] counting from the reference day in compliance with the requirements and procedure set out below:—

- (a) for tests using RAT kits:—
- (i) use 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 rapid antigen test results, 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) for tests with a specimen bottle obtained:—
- (i) obtain a specimen bottle from CHP/prescribed officer(s);
 - (ii) collect sample in the aforesaid specimen bottle 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 and 7th day counting from the reference day the specimen bottle with the sample to one of the designated collection points ^[Note 7]; 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/her undergoing the Specified Test.
- (IV) 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

- (V) specify in relation to the category of persons required to undergo the Specified Tests in compliance with the requirements and procedure set out in Part (II) above the four 30-day periods counting from the day following the 1st day, 3rd day, 7th day and 14th day respectively, and in relation to the category of persons required to undergo the Specified Tests in compliance with the requirements and procedure set out in Part (III) above, the two 30-day periods counting from the day following the 1st day and 7th day respectively; or the 30-day period from the day following the Extended Testing Period due to Inclement Weather ^[Note 3] 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

- (VI) 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 8].

G.N. (E.) 294 of 2022 will be suspended upon the commencement of this Notice on 7 March 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, 3rd day, 7th day and 14th 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 “3rd day” would be 4 January 2022, the “7th day” would be 8 January 2022, and the “14th day” would be 15 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, 3rd day, 7th day and 14th day (as applicable) 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, 3rd day, 7th day and 14th 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 6 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 3rd day (i.e. 2 January 2022 and 4 January 2022) which have already passed, but are still required to undergo testing on the 7th day and 14th day (i.e. 8 January 2022, 15 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 a specimen bottle from one of the 120 post offices, 46 general out-patient clinics of the Hospital Authority or vending machines set up at MTR stations ^[Note 7];
 - (ii) collect deep throat saliva sample in the aforesaid specimen bottle 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, 3rd day, 7th day and 14th day counting from the reference day, the specimen bottle with the sample to one of the designated collection points ^[Note 7], 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/her undergoing the Specified Test.

Note 6:—

If a person who falls within the category specified in Part (I) has completed vaccination course (after having received two doses of CoronaVac or Comirnaty COVID-19 vaccine at least 14 days ago) and has received negative test results using RAT kits for two consecutive days from the 6th day counting from the reference day, he/she will be taken to have complied with the requirements set out in the compulsory testing notice and does not need to undergo testing on the remaining testing date.

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.

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.

7 March 2022

Secretary for Food and Health