

## Healthcare amid Covid-19 Pandemic

#### OVERVIEW OF HONG KONG'S HEALTHCARE POLICIES IN 2021-22

# Policies Overview

Quarantine arrangements for

COVID-19 patients and inbound travelers

COVID-19 Vaccination programme Vaccine Pass & "Leave Home Safe" app Procurement of COVID-19 oral antivirals

Compulsory Testing

#### **Designated Clinics**

Public-Private Partnership



## 1. COVID-19 Vaccination Programme

# **COVID-19 Vaccination Programme**

HK Government implements a territory-wide COVID-19 Vaccination Programme (the "Programme") free of charge for all HK residents.

#### Venues:

- Community Vaccination Centres (CVC)
  - The Government sets up CVCs in various districts in Hong Kong providing vaccination service to the public, including BioNTech vaccine for persons aged 12 or above and Sinovac vaccine for persons aged 6 months or above.

#### Private Clinic COVID-19 Vaccination Stations (PCVSs)

- Starting from 1 September 2022, PCVSs provide BioNTech vaccine for persons aged 12 or above and Sinovac vaccine for persons aged 6 months or above.
- Children Community Vaccination Centres (CCVC)
  - The Government sets up CCVCs for children aged 5 to 11 to receive BioNTech vaccine. Apart from the CCVCs, children aged 5 to 11 cannot receive BioNTech vaccine at other venues.

# COVID-19 Vaccination Programme (Cont'd)

Designated general outpatient clinics (GOPCs) of the Hospital Authority

Designated clinics of the Department of Health (DH)

Designated private clinics

• Members of the public can choose a private doctor or clinic under the Vaccination Programme, and make an appointment for Sinovac vaccination or BioNTech vaccination directly with the private doctor or clinic. Thousands of private doctors have joined the programme.

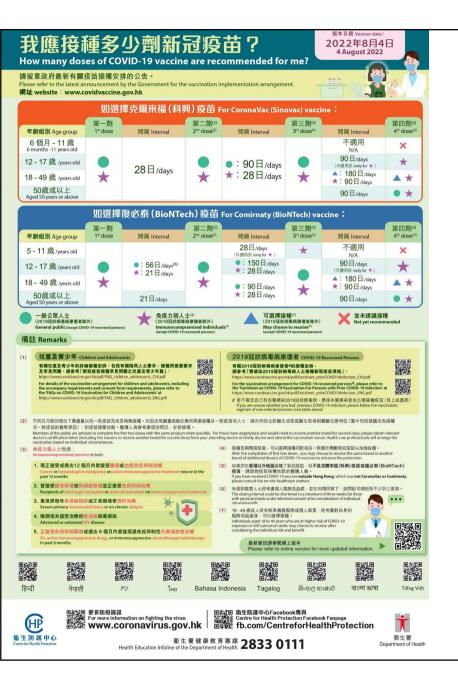
## Residential care homes and nursing homes

• Outreach vaccination service or vaccination by visiting medical officers to be provided.

#### Hospital COVID-19 Vaccination Stations

• COVID-19 Vaccination Stations have been set up in several public hospitals to enable patients visiting the hospital for follow-up appointments and visitors.

Outreach vaccination service



# Vaccination Programme (Cont'd)

## Children and Infants

- The minimum age for receiving the Sinovac vaccine has been lowered to 6 months from August 4, 2022
- The minimum age for receiving the BioNTech vaccine has been lowered to 5 years-old from February 26, 2022

## Elderly

- Persons aged 60 or above who have received three doses of the Sinovac vaccine or the BioNTech vaccine may receive the fourth vaccine dose at least three months after their last dose from April 8, 2022
- Individuals aged 50 years or above are recommended to receive four doses of COVID-19 vaccine. They are recommended to:
  - Receive the third dose as soon as 90 days after the second dose
  - Receive the fourth dose at least 90 days after the third dose



# Home Vaccination Service

The Home Vaccination Service is open for online and phone registration starting from April 19, 2022

Members of the public can register for the free door-to-door Sinovac vaccination service via the Home Vaccination Service website or the enquiry hotline. The Service was launched on April 26, 2022.

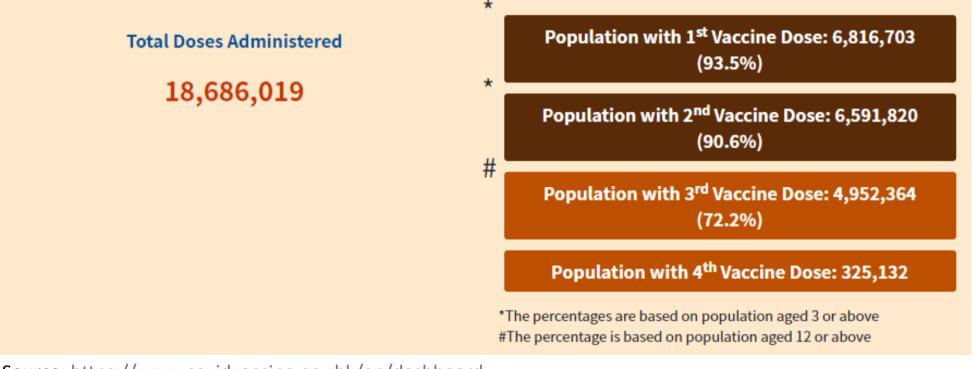
Requirements to use the Service:

✓ Elderly aged 70 or above

✓ Persons with impaired mobility due to illness or physical disability incapable of going out to receive vaccination

✓ Have not received any COVID-19 vaccines

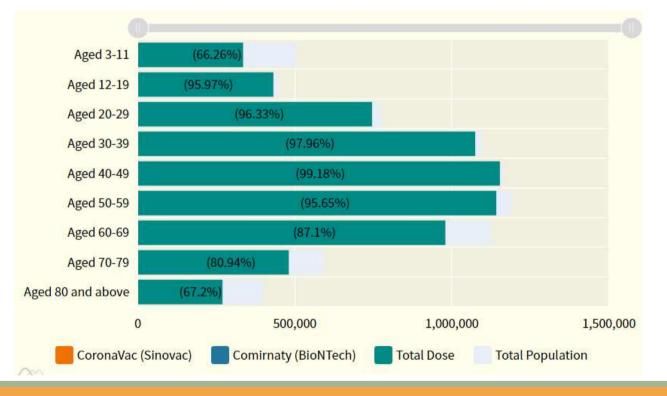
## Vaccination Coverage (as of 1 Sep 2022)



Source: https://www.covidvaccine.gov.hk/en/dashboard

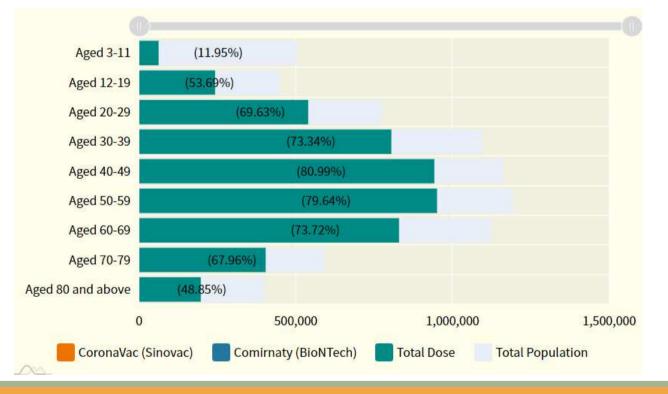
## Vaccination Coverage (as of 1 Sep 2022)

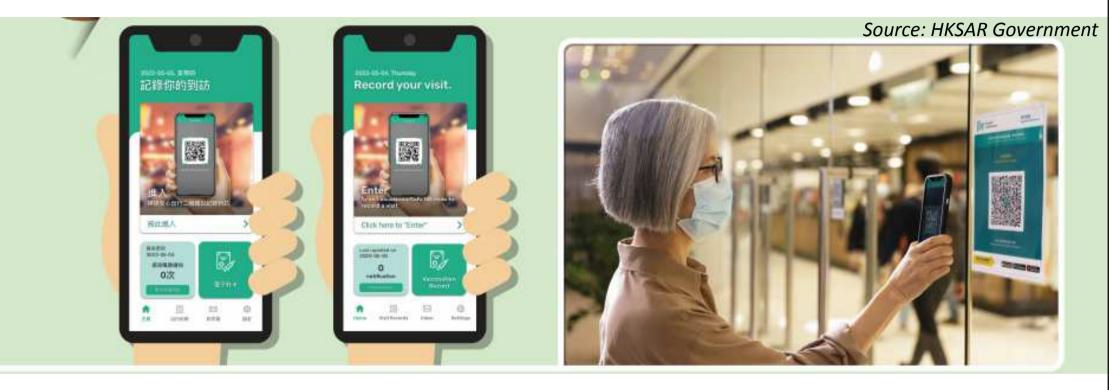
Population with 2<sup>nd</sup> vaccine dose (source: <u>https://www.covidvaccine.gov.hk/en/dashboard</u>)



## Vaccination Coverage (as of 1 Sep 2022)

Population with 3<sup>rd</sup> vaccine dose (source: <u>https://www.covidvaccine.gov.hk/en/dashboard</u>)

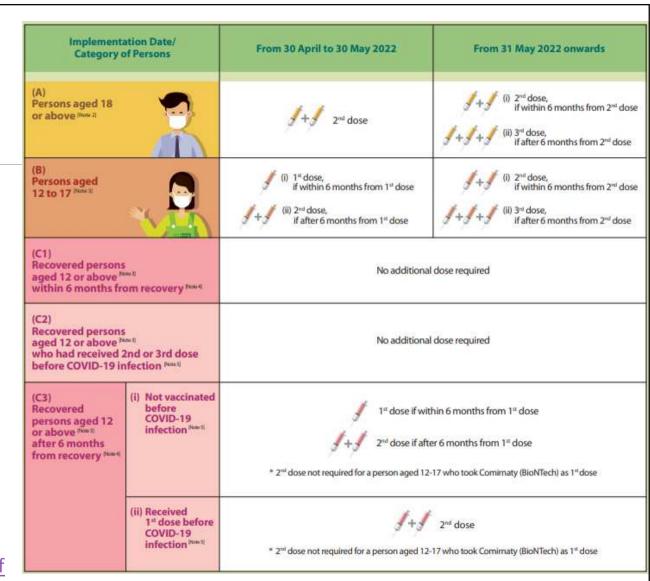




## 2. Vaccine Pass & "Leave Home Safe" app

## Vaccine Pass

Starting from 24 February 2022, all persons <u>aged 12 or</u> <u>above entering or remaining</u> <u>on the following specified</u> <u>premises including staff</u> <u>involved in the operation of</u> <u>the premises, are required to</u> <u>be vaccinated</u> according to this schedule unless they are exempted.



Source: https://www.coronavirus.gov.hk/pdf/vp t1 ENG.pdf

# Vaccine Pass (Cont'd)

By administrative orders, Vaccine Pass requirements are also applicable to some other premises such as <u>schools, universities, offices of the Government and</u> <u>public organisations, public hospitals, residential care homes for the elderly</u> <u>and residential care homes for persons with disabilities</u>, etc. The coverage of Vaccine Pass requirements of these premises may differ. For example, students are not subject to Vaccine Pass requirements imposed by primary and secondary schools.

# Vaccine Pass and "Leave Home Safe" mobile app

Red Code and Amber Code is added into the Vaccine Pass to differentiate persons with higher risk of infection starting from August 9, 2022.

#### **Red Code**

- Applicable to all confirmed cases
- Applicable to persons under home isolation and persons in community isolation facilities
- These persons are not allowed to leave the isolation location to avoid infecting others
- Persons under the category of Red Code are not allowed to enter all catering premises and scheduled premises regulated under the Prevention and Control of Disease (Requirements and Directions) (Business and Premises) Regulation (Cap. 599F)

#### Amber code

- Applicable to inbound persons from overseas places or Taiwan
- Persons under the category of Amber Code not allowed to enter such premises in the capacity of a customer or visitor





## 3. Procurement of COVID-19 Oral Antivirals

# COVID-19 Oral Antivirals

A list of private doctors who have obtained COVID-19 oral drugs for prescription has been published on a designated website in April, and relaxing the eligibility of COVID-19 antiviral prescriptions in July.

 $\checkmark$  Private doctors must follow the treatment guidelines set out by the HA

✓ Doctors should not charge patients any fees for the COVID-19 oral drugs

**Designated Clinics** : patients can be present physically to seek medical and can be prescribed with the antiviral drugs

**Telemedicine Service**: doctors will prescribe the medications and then send the medicine to their home right away

**Private Practitioners/ Private Hospitals**: patients can be prescribed with the antiviral drugs if appropriate

# COVID-19 Oral Antivirals Prescriptions

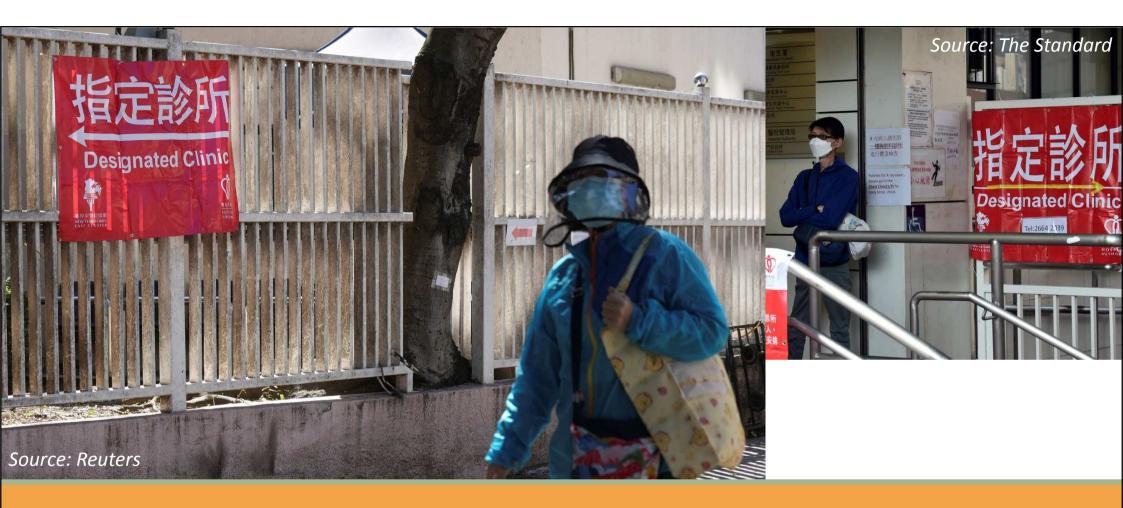
## Patients who can be prescribed with antivirals:

## 18-59 years-old

- At high risk of medical illness
- Suffering from chronic illnesses
- Have symptoms of COVID-19 within five days and seek medical attention
- Don't have any contraindications to the antiviral drugs

## 60 years-old or above

- All will be prescribed with antivirals if they have symptoms of COVID-19 within five days and seek medical attention
- Don't have any contraindications to the antiviral drugs



## 4. Designated Clinics for COVID-19 Patients

# **Designated Clinics for COVID-19** Patients

Hospital Authority (HA) activates designated clinics for confirmed cases of COVID-19 to help provide symptomatic treatment for confirmed patients in the community, especially the high risk patients, who are presenting with relatively mild symptoms of infection (e.g., fever, cough, sore throat) requiring medical advice.

The healthcare staff of the designated clinics will provide appropriate treatment according to the patient's clinical condition, and will transfer the patient to the hospitals for further treatment if required

#### 2019冠狀病毒病確診個案指定診所專注處理要做感染做狀的病人 DESIGNATED CLINICS for COVID-19 Confirmed Cases for Management of Patients with Mild S 輕微感染徵狀:例如發燒、咳嗽、喉癰痛 ■常管理局(層管局)約2019冠状病毒病理診療家指定診所、協助治療活転新活成浸渍状の需要獲得動生活在服務的社面理 **股份股份服务** 診病人,特別是較高單階是看(包括70歲或以上長者,五歲或以下小童。德孕20.敗或以上的孕婦,以及免疫力受抑制的病人) 年滿18歲而持有香港身份處 熱加強支援指定群結、指定診所特股「關變預的專環」。上述較高面除病人、幼稚園或小學學生類於指定診所的預的及服務時 而內透過「關愛種的專導」種的醫生於在服務。 並身處香港的確診病人可透過手機程式 其他建築人士制定透過醫營是一站式手機發式「HAGe」內的「每的馬里那會/南字發扬」功能。或於著的及來長務開內發電 HA Go」內的「預約透距診症/指定診所 能定能伤伤一般预约需抵责行预约。 此外·醫管局亦可為合语的資於病人要供視像診療證標。 功能预约硬像診底服務。 原本於下列指定診所長期覆診的病人,將覆安排到相應的關近診所領取補充藥物或作合調器處。 Tele-consultation Service Mild Symptoms : e.g. Fever, Cough, Sore Throat Confirmed patients aged 18 The Happital Authority (HK) Designated Clinics (DCs) help provide treatment for the confirmed patients in the community presenting with relatively mild symptoms of infection, especially high nick patients (including the elderly aged 70 to above, children aged 5 or below, woman at 28 or more weeks of or above who are Hono Kong Identity Card pregnancy, and immunocompromised patients. Holders situated in Hong Koog To enhance napport to designated patients, DCs have launched the "Care Tooking Line" for high sits patients, kindlergarten and primary school students to make appointments during booking and centor hours of DCs for medical comunitation. can make appointment of tele-consultation service with Other conferenci cation's can make appointment through the "Book Take / DC" function in HW, and stop wohile and "Ha Go" or be called the control booking "Book Tele / DC" function telephone number of individual DC during the booking and service hours in "HA Go" mobile app. In addition WA also consider tele-consultation service to suitable conferred patients Patients who initially have follow up appointments at the DCs listed below would be enarged to nearby clinics for medication self or follow-up as appropriate 指定診所 廢物補充診所 **数請預約 Designated Clinic** 於开 地址及预约電話 放雨 地址及電話 Address & Banking Te 松滑度装动第12座林下 柴港康民街1號地下 调草普通科門龄龄所 G/F. Block 12, Mars Tala: Eatota, 采着普通科門診診所 Chai Wen **ILE 1 Hone May Rypert Chai Wee** Chai Wan General Out-patient Cline Wan Tasi General Out-patient Clini 2897 5527 2556 0261 HERMAN : 2897 1058 香港 Hong Kong 皇后地城城步利道45號 联始出动事用会 西望然赛馬會 因爱祭皇后大道西134號 45 Victoria Road, Kerr 普通科門转除所 普通科門診診所 134 Gueen's Road West, Sal Ying Pur 2817 3215 Sal Ying Pun Jockey Club General Out-patient Clinic Kennedy Town Jackey Club General Out-califert CEnic 2859 8203 MR.8088 : 7083 7500 新聞損太子編束600號 藏石山斧山道160號新算一樓 030 Prince Edward Road East San Po Kong 柏立基普通科門診診所 東九縣美通科門熱於所 UP, New Block, 183 Harrow Hill Road Diamond Hill Robert Black General Out-patient Clinic Fast Kewloon General Out-patient Clinic 2377 2660 2320 4240 HEMMEN : 3506 4277 九龍 大使意味用の心 九龍灣旗仁街9號一樓 力能増速度中心 九龍農設仁街9號一樓 VF. 9 Kai Yan Street, Kowloon Bay 普通科門静診所 普通科門診診所 1F, 9 Kai Yan Street, Kowloon Bay 2116 2812 Kowloon Bay Health Centre General Out-callent CEnic Cowloon Bay Health Centr General Out-patient Cilvis 2117 1549 MACTHINE : 5215 2312 蔡涛基盛震310就 南装顶赛湾會 南莫滿賽馬會普遷科 英活英提出310號 310 Kwai Shing Circuit, Kwai Chung 曾递科門診診所 門診診所(分部) **310 Kwai Shing Circuit, Kwat Chang** 2497 4413 South Kwei Chung Jockey Club General Out-petient Dinic South Kwai Chung Jockey Club event Out-patient Clinic (Extensio 2871 1098 EXMORE : 2615 7333 沙田威麗斯親王醫院 沙田播稿杆街29號地下 跟洲角装通科門舒装所 包玉剛獅士癌症中心1樓 GIF, 29 Chap Wal Ken Street, Shatin 理想普通科門診診所 1/F, the Sir Yuo kong Pao Cancer Centre Prince of Wales Hospital, Shatin tion Chasi Kok 2647 3383 Lok Yups General Out-patient Clinic General Out-gallent Clinic 新界 BEHERE : 9147 2400 2692 8730 New 天水園天業第3號一樓 天水園天皇路3號二樓 (香港源地公園及 《香港温地公園及 天水園(天業路) 天水園(天皇路) 天狭路兼兼軒對面〉 社區健康中心一種 (面接祥景献越接天) 1(F, 3 Tin Yip Road, Tin Shul War (Opposite HK Metand Pork and Vienni Cove of Tin Kwal Road) 計画健康中心二種 8F, 3 Tin Yip Road, Tin Shui Wei (Opposite HK Welland Park and Vanni Cove of Tin Kwei Road) 14, Tin Shui Mai (Tin Yip Road) 2/F. Tin Shai Wai (Tin Yip Road)

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前至局前即 www.ha.org.hk

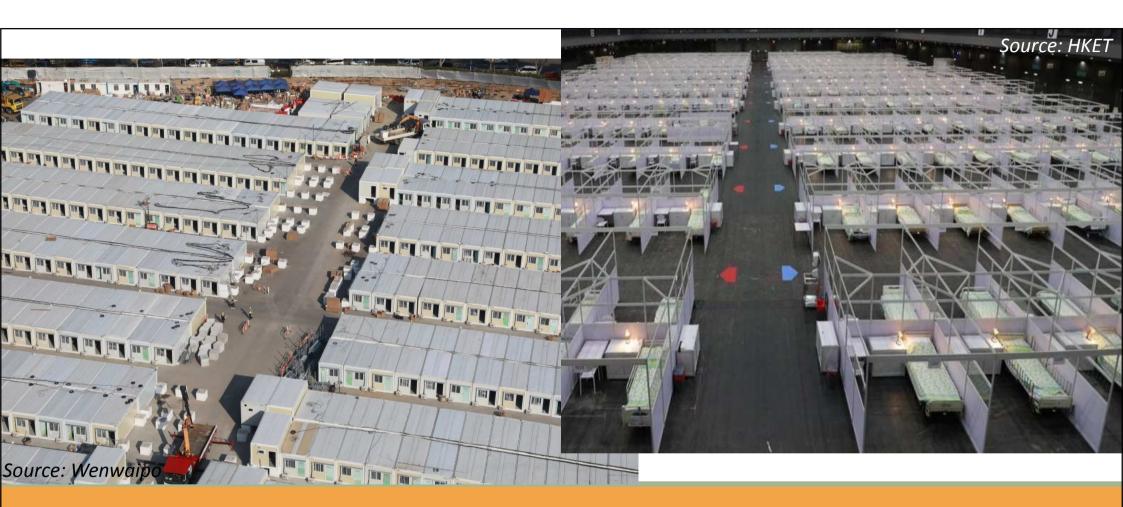
指定診所的服務時間會授實鄉服務需求作出調整 Service hours of Designated Clinics may adjust depending on service demand

# Designated Clinics for COVID-19 Patients (Cont'd)

\*7 designated clinics for confirmed COVID-19 cases were activated in Feb 2022 in order to help provide diagnosis and treatment for the people with mild symptoms of infection after being notified by the Department of Health on their positive results and while awaiting hospital admission.

\*Total of **23 designated clinics** were activated in March 2022 in order to strengthen community support for confirmed patients and implement a triage system to prioritise services for patients in critical condition.

HA now provides 7 designated clinics services and support for the confirmed patients in the community (as of 1 Sep 2022).



5. Quarantine arrangements for COVID-19 patients and inbound travelers

# Quarantine Arrangements – Local Cases

## Home Quarantine

- Persons who reside in suitable dwelling places would be considered. For example, dwelling
  places suspected to have transmission, dwelling places without separate washroom/kitchen,
  subdivided units or very small areas are considered not suitable.
- Another overarching principle is that only those who have similar risk level should be confined at the same location at a material time.
- Physical conditions of individual contacts, including self-care ability, whether care by others is needed, pregnancy status, co-morbidities, etc.

#### Designated Quarantine Facilities

• Persons who are not suitable to home quarantine will be sent to designated quarantine facilities.

# Quarantine Arrangements – Designated Quarantine Facilities

The Government has set up quarantine centres which currently accommodate people who are close contacts of confirmed cases, but without compatible symptoms for compulsory quarantine.

 Asymptomatic patients who require no medical support but have to be isolated somewhere other than their household due to their care needs or household environment will be arranged to be admitted to community isolation facilities (CIFs) to reduce the risk of transmission.

HKSAR Department of Health Health & Quarantine Information Declaration

Kong as legally required.

Please undergo compulsory testing on

specific days following arrival at Hong

Your QR code is saved automatically (max. 4), please click here to check your code and

> Testing Hotel (Booking verified)

show to the staff of the Department of Health at the Hong Kong port. 0

# Quarantine Arrangements – Inbound Travellers

## Health Declaration System

- All inbound travellers are required to complete the online Health & Quarantine Information Declaration of the Department of Health (DH).
- All persons boarding flights to Hong Kong from overseas places or Taiwan are required to submit the form online in advance (as early as three days before the day of arrival). After submitting <u>the online form</u>, the system will generate a health declaration QR code. The health declaration QR code is used for verification by airlines for boarding.



Hong Kong International Airport CHAN TAI MAN A123\*\*\*(\*) Male, 1/1/1970 Contact Phone No.: +852 9123 4567 Kew Declaration

Source: https://www.coronavirus.gov.hk/eng/inbound-travel.html

# Quarantine Arrangements – Inbound Travellers (Cont'd)

## Boarding requirement

- Negative result proof of a PCR-based nucleic acid test for COVID-19 within 48 hours (Only applicable to inbound persons aged 3 or above);
- Health declaration QR code (including declaration of vaccination record; and
- Confirmation of room reservation for 3 nights starting on the day of arrival at Hong Kong in a designated quarantine hotel (DQH)

## Quarantine requirement

- "3+4" model: Compulsory quarantine in DQH for three days, followed by medical surveillance at home for four days, with multiple tests during medical surveillance and the monitoring period thereafter.
- Amber Code restrictions under the Vaccine Pass will be applied during medical surveillance period, and they are not allowed to enter high-risk premises involving mask-off or group activities, as well as other premises requiring key protection.

# Designated Transportation



## **Overseas:**

 Anti-epidemic coaches with over 20 seats to provide transport services at fixed locations and times for inbound persons who have tested positive for COVID-19 at the airport to a designated Community Isolation Facilities (CIF) since March 30, 2022.

## Local:

- Designated taxi fleet was set up to provide patients with free transport services between the designated clinics and their residences from February 18, 2022
- Designated bus fleet was set up for transporting the relevant persons from their residences to the designated CIF from February 21, 2022
- Drivers of the designated fleet must wear protective equipment, including protective face shields (while not driving), masks and protective gowns, and fully disinfect the compartments every day and perform a daily rapid antigen test before providing services



## 6. Compulsory Testing

# **Compulsory Testing Notice**

Persons are subject to compulsory testing if they are:

## A visitor/resident of specified premises

- A considerable number of persons who have recently contracted the specified disease have recently been present on the premises;
- A person who has recently contracted that disease and who has recently been present on the premises is likely to have been in close proximity to a considerable number of other persons on the premises;

## High risk groups or high exposure groups

- Including staff of quarantine centres / hotels / facilities and designated transport, airport staff, staff of container terminals and shipping services, cold store practitioners, etc.
- Compulsory testing frequency is changed to once in every seven days

# Compulsory Testing Notice (Cont'd)

## Direction issued by a registered medical practitioner

- The law has empowered registered medical practitioners to require, by a compulsory testing direction, any person whom the medical practitioner attends to in the course of professional practice and clinically suspects to have contracted COVID-19 to undergo a COVID-19 nucleic acid test.
- Persons who receive a compulsory testing direction should undergo a test within two days after the issue date of the written direction (the testing deadline).

## Persons arriving Hong Kong

- Undergo daily rapid antigen tests (RATs) until day 10;
- Undergo PCR-based nucleic acid tests on day 2, 4, 6 and 9.



## 7. Public-Private Partnership

# Coordination between public and private hospitals

The Hospital Authority has timely adjusted its non-emergency and nonessential medical services in response to the different stages of development of the COVID-19 epidemic, including:

- Specifically referred its patients to private hospitals for treatment through the low-charge bed mechanism established with two private hospitals and a new partnership programme with private hospitals implemented to address the demand for hospital beds.
- Expanded the service scope of some of the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) programmes and launched emergency PPP Programmes to deliver services such as orthopaedic surgery, cystoscopy, gastroscopy and breast cancer surgery, so that affected patients can be treated as early as possible.

# Coordination from private sectors

Tele-health Hub: about 50 private doctors or retired doctors participating in a locum scheme take turns to provide services. The Hub to render support to confirmed COVID-19 patients who are undergoing isolation in the community and to provide infection control guidelines and tele-health advice for help seekers and their family.

\*About 780 healthcare professionals have signed up to take part in various antiepidemic work, which includes providing medical support to community isolation facilities, joining the HA's anti-epidemic team and assisting in speeding up COVID-19 vaccination

\*The Government has commissioned the HA to undergo strategic purchasing with private healthcare institutions in order to provide medical support for users at community isolation facilities