

Further updates related to the confirmed case who is a retired faculty member

Friday, Mar 5, 2021, 23:56PM

Dear Members of the University,

Government Home Affairs Department have picked up the reply slips for compulsory testing of Tower 7 residents late this afternoon (5 Mar). All units have been accounted for. This information will be passed to Centre for Health Protection, and CHP officers will monitor COVID-19 test results of the residents to make sure everything is in order. In the next few days, hopefully we will not hear anything from CHP, then the compulsory testing order for Tower 7 will be considered completed. HSEO has shared the above information with the residents and reminded them to work from home and take extra precautions when going out until 14 March, and to self-report test results using the University COVID webpage. So far all known test results of the residents have been negative. We have also learned that the spouse and domestic helper of the retired faculty member, plus the four faculty members and a faculty spouse who played tennis with the professor have all tested negative.

On the other hand, earlier this evening, the infected retired professor informed HSEO that while trying to recollect his activities, he forgot to mention he went to the campus hair salon last Thursday or Friday (25 or 26 Feb). We immediately passed this piece of information to CHP, together with identity and contact number of the two hair salon staff who served the retired professor. Later in the evening, we learned that CHP has required the two hair salon staff to be quarantined for 7 days from today, which will be 14 days from their time of contact with the infected person. CMO will conduct special cleaning at the hair salon tomorrow morning, and CSO will require all hair salon staff to take a test and have a negative result before reopening.

Patronizing a hair salon with both sides wearing masks should not be a high risk activity. However, members who are concerned are encouraged to have a test. Although the on-campus mobile lab does not operate during the weekend, members can use one of the Community Testing Centers, which are open during weekends. More information is available from the Government webpage <https://www.coronavirus.gov.hk/eng/early-testing.html>. Anyone with relevant symptoms should seek medical attention at once, instead of having a test.

Most of you should have seen the mobile lab parked in the Piazza since Thursday morning. The lab started to process samples from late Thursday afternoon. After Friday the whole day, well over 200 staff and students have made use of the rapid PCR screening using Prof Wen Weijia's equipment. The mobile lab will be open again next Monday (8 Mar).

We will continue to update the campus community when more information is available.

Take care,
Samuel Yu, Director of Health, Safety and Environment