Message about COVID-19 testing
Tuesday, April 7, 2020 3:29 PM

Dear Members of HKUST,

Quite a number of you asked about testing for COVID-19, and we would like to provide you with more information in a question and answer format.

COVID-19 Testing Q&A

What kind of test is available?
This is known as RT-PCR for SARS-CoV-2 virus (the COVID-19 virus). A sample container will be provided to the patient, and a deep throat saliva sample should be taken by the patient at home first thing in the morning. The sample will then be sent to a medical laboratory for analysis the same day.

Who should be tested?
If you have recently traveled to high-risk areas such as Europe and the USA, Korea, etc., and have symptoms similar to flu; or if you have had contact with confirmed cases of COVID-19.

How do I get tested?
The test can only be prescribed after consultation with a doctor. Please call the Campus Medical Clinic at 2358 6670, or your own doctor for an appointment or advice. If you have severe symptoms, go to a nearby public hospital at once (the one closest to campus is TKO Hospital).

How much does the test cost?
The test provided by the Government is free, but the regular emergency service fee at public hospital is $180. Samples can also be collected in vials available from the Campus Medical Clinic and sent to Government Laboratory for testing, a handling fee of $300 will be charged by the Campus Medical Clinic.

For patients who do not meet the Government's criteria for free tests, the Campus Medical Clinic can arrange similar tests by an accredited private laboratory. The cost will be $1500 per sample. Please call the Clinic for more details.

Where do I send the sample?
Samples for Government testing will need to be sent to designated collection points, the closest one to campus being Yung Fung Shee Memorial Centre at Kwun Tong. If you are living off-campus, you can consult this list: https://www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/list_of_collection_points_en.pdf

If you live on campus and have difficulties in submitting samples, HSEO can help coordinate sample delivery from Monday to Friday when there is a need. Please call HSEO at 2358 7229 or 2358 6509 before 5 pm the day before, and drop the sample in the collection box outside Lift 4, Ground Floor, next to Bank of East Asia, between 9:00 and 9:15 am the next day.

More questions?
If you have further questions regarding the COVID-19 test, please contact the Clinic at 2358 6670.

Health, Safety and Environment Office