

本署檔號 Our Ref. : (63) in DH CDB/9/12/6/4 Pt.1

22 June 2020

Dear Private Doctors,

New option for collection of specimen bottles for deep throat saliva specimens for COVID-19 testing requested by private doctors

We write to inform you of a new option for collection of specimen bottles from the Department of Health (DH) by private medical practitioners (PMPs) for providing to their patients for saving deep throat saliva (DTS) specimens for COVID-19 testing.

Currently, the DH provides specimen bottles for PMPs upon request. Under the enhanced arrangements, there will be two options for PMPs to obtain specimen bottles. The request form is available from: https://www.coronavirus.gov.hk/pdf/specimen_bottles_request_form.pdf (Appendix).

- **Option 1**: You need to fill in “Option 1” of the request form (i.e. first page) and fax it to one of the 13 DH clinics where you would like to collect specimen bottles. You can choose to obtain 20, 30 or 50 bottles each time. The concerned DH clinic will then fax the reply slip back to the PMP advising the time slot for specimen bottle collection. After receiving the reply slip, your clinic staff needs to bring it along to collect the bottles at the specified DH clinic as scheduled.
- **Option 2**: You could choose postal delivery of 20 specimen bottles to your clinic by the Public Health Laboratory Centre (PHLC) of the Centre for Health Protection (CHP). The service is free of charge. You need to fill in Option 2 of the request form (i.e. the second page) and fax it to PHLC directly (fax number: 2776 1994). The bottles will be delivered to your clinic via postal service of Hongkong Post according to the address provided.



Once again, we strongly urge doctors to remain vigilant and **arrange COVID-19 test for all patients presenting with any acute symptoms, irrespective of their travel history and clinical severity.** The spectrum of clinical manifestations of COVID-19 is wide. Some infected persons may present with mild or non-specific symptoms only, especially during the early stage of disease. This poses challenges in relying on common clinical presentation to guide the need for testing. Besides, travel history is NOT a prerequisite for offering COVID-19 testing. All the 15 cases of locally-acquired infection of the two clusters recorded in May and June 2020 did not have travel history outside Hong Kong within the incubation period. The two local clusters signify that there are silent/subclinical local transmissions going on in the community and the risk of community outbreaks exists. Testing of COVID-19 at an earlier stage may enable earlier case detection, isolation and treatment, and hence reduce community spread.

When ordering the test, please fill in the laboratory form (available from: https://www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/test_request_form_public_health_laboratory_centre_dh2546.pdf) and give it to the patient together with a specimen bottle and two plastic bags for them to save a DTS specimen (preferably early morning specimen but non-early morning specimen is also acceptable). Also, you may consider to collect stool specimen for paediatric patients if collection of DTS is not possible, using the same collection bottles as for DTS.

The patients can send the specimen together with a completed laboratory form to one of the 13 collection clinics of DH or 22 general out-patients clinics of the Hospital Authority by themselves or their friends/family members/relatives **on the same day of specimen collection.** Please refer to the following webpage for the updated list of collection clinics (Chinese - https://www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/list_of_collection_points_tc.pdf; English - https://www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/list_of_collection_points_en.pdf). The patients can also use door-to-door specimen collection service provided by GoGo Tech Limited ("GOGO VAN") and HK PICK-UP LIMITED ("Pickupp") at a cost to be paid by the patients. They can refer to the information below for service subscriptions and enquiries:

	GOGO VAN	Pickupp
Service Subscription	www.gogovan.com.hk/covid-19-testing-en/	hk.pickupp.io/en/blog/COVID-19-sample
General Enquiry	5681 4989 (hotline)	hk@pickupp.io

Laboratory reports will normally be available on the next working day upon receipt of specimens and will be sent out by fax to the requesting PMP. If the patient deteriorates, it is necessary to make sure that COVID-19 testing has been done and repeated testing may be considered. For cases tested positive for COVID-19, the CHP will contact the doctors and the patients for investigation. In general, staff in the clinic would not be considered as close contact if both the patients and staff wear surgical masks, the duration of consultation is short (less than 15 minutes) and there is no aerosol generating procedure performed in the clinic. It is important to adhere to infection control measures all the times. You may wish to refer to the guidelines published by the CHP for details (<https://www.chp.gov.hk/en/resources/346/index.html>).

The CHP has produced infographics for publicity of COVID-19 testing for patients. You may refer to the following hyperlink for the infographics:

- Chinese -
https://www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/early_testing_and_detection_tc.pdf
- English -
https://www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/early_testing_and_detection_en.pdf

Thank you again for your unfailing support and concerted efforts in the prevention and control of communicable diseases.

Yours faithfully,



(Dr. SK CHUANG)

for Controller, Centre for Health Protection
Department of Health

Collect Specimens for COVID-19 testing under enhanced surveillance

Request for specimen bottles for deep throat saliva specimens
by private medical practitioners**Option 1:****Collection of specimen bottles from one of the following DH clinics**(Please ✓ **ONE** clinic only, and send the completed "Option 1" form to the chosen clinic by fax)

	Clinic name	Fax no.
	Hong Kong region:	
<input type="checkbox"/>	1. Shaukeiwan Chest Clinic	2568 4713
<input type="checkbox"/>	2. Sai Ying Pun Dermatological Clinic	2857 9542
<input type="checkbox"/>	3. Wan Chai Male Social Hygiene Clinic	2891 9264
	Kowloon Region:	
<input type="checkbox"/>	4. East Kowloon Chest Clinic	2353 5412
<input type="checkbox"/>	5. Kowloon Chest Clinic	2760 1051
<input type="checkbox"/>	6. Yaumatei Chest Clinic	2374 3575
<input type="checkbox"/>	7. Yung Fung Shee Dermatological Clinic	2348 5263
<input type="checkbox"/>	8. Cheung Sha Wan Dermatological Clinic	2152 0035
	New Territories:	
<input type="checkbox"/>	9. Yuen Chau Kok Chest Clinic	2647 1579
<input type="checkbox"/>	10. Tai Po Chest Clinic	2665 4629
<input type="checkbox"/>	11. South Kwai Chung Chest Clinic	2419 1350
<input type="checkbox"/>	12. Yan Oi Chest Clinic	2404 0379
<input type="checkbox"/>	13. Fanling Social Hygiene Clinic	2671 7135

Remarks: Details of clinic address and telephone number are shown in the **Annex**.

Quantity requested: 20 specimen bottles
 30 specimen bottles
 50 specimen bottles

Requested by : _____
(Clinic or Doctor's name/ chop)

Tel. no.: _____

Fax no.: _____

Date of request: _____

Reply Slip

Thank you for your request.

Please bring along with this reply slip to collect specimen bottles on _____
at 9 am to 10 am / 2 pm to 3 pm at our clinic.

Date: _____ Clinic: _____

DH Clinic remarks:	Clinic ref. no.:	
	Date / quantity issued:	

Collect Specimens for COVID-19 testing under enhanced surveillance

Request for specimen bottles for deep throat saliva specimens by private medical practitioners

Option 2:

Postal Delivery of 20 specimen bottles to doctor's clinic by DH Laboratory Centre

(Please send the completed "Option 2" form to Public Health Laboratory Centre
by fax at **2776 1994**)

To be received by: _____

Postal address: _____

Requested by : _____
(Clinic or Doctor's name/ chop)

Tel. no.: _____

Fax no.: _____

Date of request: _____

List of clinics under the Department of Health for collection of specimen bottles

Clinic	Address	Tel. No.
Hong Kong Island		
Shaukeiwan Chest Clinic	Shaukeiwan Chest Clinic 2/F, Shaukeiwan Jockey Club Polyclinic 8 Chai Wan Road, Hong Kong	2560 4522
Sai Ying Pun Dermatological clinic	3/F, Sai Ying Pun Jockey Club Polyclinic, 134 Queen's Road West, Sai Ying Pun	2859 8302
Wan Chai Male Social Hygiene Clinic	6/F, Tang Chi Ngong Specialist Clinic, 284 Queen's Road East, Wan Chai	3103 2400
Kowloon		
East Kowloon Chest Clinic	East Kowloon Chest Clinic East Kowloon Polyclinic 160 Hammer Hill Road, Kowloon	2352 0077
Kowloon Chest Clinic	Kowloon Chest Clinic 147A, Argyle Street, Kowloon	2711 2086
Yaumatei Chest Clinic	Yaumatei Chest Clinic 2/F, Yaumatei Jockey Club Polyclinic 145, Battery Street, Kowloon	2388 5939
Yung Fung Shee Dermatological Clinic	4/F Yung Fung Shee Memorial Centre, 79 Cha Kwo Ling Road, Kwun Tong	2727 8319
Cheung Sha Wan Dermatological Clinic	3/F, West Kowloon Health Centre, Cheung Sha Wan Government Offices, 303 Cheung Sha Wan Road, Sham Shui Po	2150 7373
New Territories		
Yuen Chau Kok Chest Clinic	Yuen Chau Kok Chest Clinic 1/F, 29, Chap Wai Kon Street, Sha Tin	2647 6445
Tai Po Chest Clinic	Tai Po Chest clinic 1/F, Tai Po Jockey Club Clinic 37, Ting Kok Road, Tai Po, New Territories	2689 5600
South Kwai Chung Chest Clinic	South Kwai Chung Chest Clinic 310, Kwai Shing Circuit South Kwai Chung, New Territories	2419 1721
Yan Oi Chest Clinic	Yan Oi Chest Clinic 6, Tuen Lee Street 2/F, Tuen Mun Yan Oi Polyclinic, New Territories	2404 3740
Fanling Social Hygiene Clinic	6/F, Fanling Health Centre, 2 Pik Fung Road, Fanling	2639 1437