

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PRESS RELEASE

Regular Testing at Sites
Protect Workforce from COVID-19

HONG KONG • 10 February 2021 - The COVID-19 epidemic continues its rampage. The Construction Industry Council (CIC) and the Hong Kong Construction Association (HKCA) strongly urge the construction industry to fully implement compulsory testing measures, which require all site staff to present negative COVID-19 test results conducted within the past 14 days when entering construction sites for work. With the support from the Development Bureau of the HKSAR Government, the CIC and the HKCA urge all construction sites in Hong Kong that the aforementioned measures shall be launched from 16 February and in full implementation starting from 22 February.

Currently, contractors may arrange free testing services for their site staff through any of the following means:

1. Contractors are advised to participate in the “Construction Industry COVID-19 Testing Service Scheme” (www.cic.hk/eng/main/CITS/), arranging the appointed testing institution to provide site staff specimen collection service by combined nasal and throat swabs at construction sites.
2. From 6 to 28 February 2021, the Food and Health Bureau will provide one-off free COVID-19 voluntary testing service to all construction workers. Contractors are advised to assist workers in making online reservation through “Community Testing Centre Booking System” (www.communitytest.gov.hk/en/) in advance. Participants are required to present the Construction Workers Registration Card issued by the CIC for verification on the testing day.
3. Site staff may consider the free specimen collection packs distribution and collection service provided by the Hospital Authority. Site staff could collect deep throat saliva specimen collection packs at its 47 general out-patient clinics, 121 post offices or 20 MTR stations and return specimen to the designated collection points (www.coronavirus.gov.hk/eng/early-testing.html).

4. Contractors could also consider recruiting local medical testing institutions which are recognised by the HKSAR Government for conducting COVID-19 nucleic acid test (https://www.coronavirus.gov.hk/eng/recognised_testing_institutions.html) or arranging specimen collection packs distribution and specimen collection service at sites to facilitate testing.
5. The CIC and the HKCA will jointly conduct regular inspections to ensure that all site staff receive negative test result, and will review the measures and make adjustments as appropriate

Since the Chinese New Year is approaching, the CIC and the HKCA hope the industry fight the virus together and encourage site staff to undergo testing promptly, conduct thorough cleaning and disinfection of construction sites and adopt precautionary measures to maintain workplace hygiene. Meanwhile, the CIC and its Hong Kong Institute of Construction and Hong Kong Construction Industry Trade Testing Centre will request all visitors to present negative test results when entering the buildings starting from 16 February and in full implementation on 22 February. In response to the COVID-19, the CIC has joined hands with the industry to launch the “Construction Industry Caring Campaign - Fight against Novel Coronavirus” to provide monetary assistance and caring support for the registered construction workers who receive a compulsory quarantine or are confirmed as infected with COVID-19, and hope for the active support of different sectors of the community.

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About the Construction Industry Council

The Construction Industry Council (CIC) was formed in 2007 under the Construction Industry Council Ordinance (Cap. 587). The CIC consists of a chairman and 24 members representing various sectors of the industry including employers, professionals, academics, contractors, workers, independent persons and Government officials.

The main functions of the CIC are to forge consensus on long-term strategic issues, convey the industry's needs and aspirations to the Government, provide professional training and registration services, and serve as a communication channel between the Government and the construction industry.

Please visit www.cic.hk for further details.