



香港特別行政區政府
The Government of the Hong Kong
Special Administrative Region

2019 冠狀病毒病

普及社區檢測計劃

Universal Community Testing Programme

COVID-19




Universal Community

Testing Programme



For details, please visit
 communitytest.gov.hk

24-hour hotline
 3142 2368

Aim

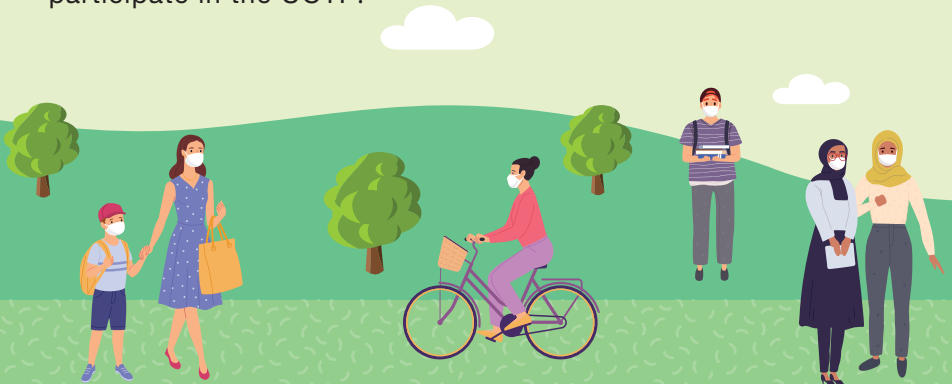


The Universal Community Testing Programme (UCTP) aims to better gauge the COVID-19 infection situation in Hong Kong and find asymptomatic patients as early as possible to achieve **early identification, early isolation and early treatment**, and to cut the virus transmission chain in the community. The UCTP also aims to allow members of the public who wish to undergo free virus testing to receive the service.

Participation in the UCTP is voluntary. Other than some who are not suitable for testing, all Hong Kong residents without symptoms can receive a one-off COVID-19 test for free. This allows the Department of Health to **identify infected people as early as possible, in particular asymptomatic patients carrying the virus.**

Cases with unknown infection sources have accounted for many of the newly confirmed cases during the third wave of the epidemic, and such cases cover various sectors and environments. This shows that hidden or asymptomatic virus transmission chains remain in the community, which is worrying. **It is important to adopt a multi-pronged approach to cut the virus transmission chain as early as possible**, and each of us can play a role by participating in the programme. By doing so, we can resume normal lives and economic activities, and mitigate the severe economic and employment challenges that Hong Kong is facing.

The Government hopes that every eligible citizen will, for their own sake and that of their beloved family members and friends, colleagues, all dedicated medical workers and everyone else in the community, participate in the UCTP.



Targets

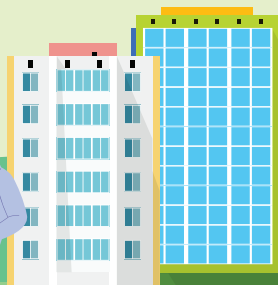


- **All Hong Kong residents** holding a valid Hong Kong identity card or birth certificate (including permanent and non-permanent residents) can participate in the UCTP on a voluntary basis.
- Children below 6 years old and people who have undergone throat or nasal operations are **not suitable** for participating in the UCTP.



Nature

- **One-off testing service for free**
- **Voluntary participation**



Dates

- **From September 1 for seven days.** Extendable for a maximum of another seven days based on the progress.

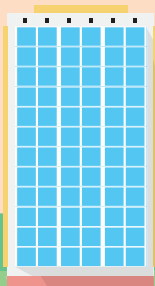
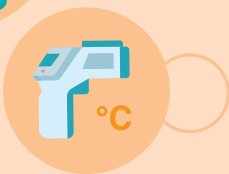


Locations

- Community Testing Centres (CTCs) will be set up in **all 18 districts** in Hong Kong.
- **CTCs will be open from 8am to 8pm** (with a one-hour break for cleansing and disinfection).



- All CTCs will **implement suitable infection prevention measures** and will reserve sufficient waiting space to allow participants to observe social distancing.



How to participate

- To prevent crowds from gathering, members of the public **must make online appointments.**
- **One's name, Hong Kong identity card number and mobile phone number** should be provided when making an appointment. Participants can also choose a **CTC to visit, the date and the time slot.**



Sampling method

- **Samples will be collected by staff with medical and healthcare training through combined nasal and throat swabs.**
- Participants will be notified of a negative result by SMS. **Those who test positive will receive calls from the Department of Health** to arrange for isolation and treatment in a public hospital.



Safeguarding privacy

- The UCTP will only test for the COVID-19 virus. **All testing will be conducted in Hong Kong. Specimens will only be kept in Hong Kong and will be destroyed within one month after completion of the programme.**



- The personal data of participants will be encrypted and stored in the servers within the government data centre. The data will only be available to the Department of Health and relevant departments for the purpose of disease control and will be handled in accordance with the provisions of the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance (Cap. 486). **All personal data and testing results will be disposed of within one month after completion of the programme.**

