

## **Safety & Health Alert No. 14 / 2021**

### **Safety Message from Construction Industry Council – Regular Testing at Sites      Protect Workforce from COVID-19**

Date:                    2 March 2021  
Our Ref. :    HD(C)TS 4/49/26

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 ([www.cic.hk/eng/main/regulartesting/](http://www.cic.hk/eng/main/regulartesting/)).

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

1. Developers and contractors are advised to participate in the “Construction Industry COVID-19 Testing Service Scheme” ([www.cic.hk/eng/main/CITS/](http://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/](http://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 (<http://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](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.

The CIC, the HKCA and the HKSAR Government 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.

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.

Please find the link below for downloading and printing the poster of “Regular Testing at Sites Protect Workforce from COVID-19” for putting up at prominent positions on the construction sites (such as entrance, construction site offices, rest rooms for construction workers and toilets), and please share with your staff and colleagues: <https://www.housingauthority.gov.hk/mini-site/site-safety/common/resources/alerts/2021/SH-2021-14c-CIC.pdf>

If you have any enquiries, please contact the Construction Industry Council on 2100 9000, or email: [enquiry@cic.hk](mailto:enquiry@cic.hk).