



本署檔號 Our Ref. HAD/LA/15/2-80/2C  
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18 August 2021

To: All Club Certificate of Compliance Holders or Responsible Persons  
All Hotel / Holiday Camp Licensees or Responsible Persons

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Government tightens the testing requirement for staff of catering businesses  
which adopt Type B Mode of Operation**

The Government gazettes directions and specifications under the Prevention and Control of Disease (Requirements and Directions) (Business and Premises) Regulation (Cap. 599F), the Prevention and Control of Disease (Prohibition on Group Gathering) Regulation (Cap. 599G) and the Prevention and Control of Disease (Wearing of Mask) Regulation (Cap. 599I) to maintain most of the social distancing measures currently in place. The requirements and restrictions under the latest directions come into effect on 19 August 2021 for a period of 14 days till 1 September 2021.

2. The global COVID-19 epidemic situation is under serious threat from the Delta variant, with acute surges in the number of confirmed cases within a short period of time in many countries which poses enormous challenges to our local anti-epidemic efforts. Taking into account the risk involved in the operation of catering business, especially the fact that customers within the premises are consuming food or drinks hence mask-off most of the time, the Government will tighten the testing requirement for staff of catering businesses which adopt Type B Mode of Operation with effect from 26 August 2021. Details are as follows—

- (a) arrangements must be made for all staff members involved in the operation of the business on the premises to (i) undergo a polymerase chain reaction based nucleic acid test for COVID-19 once during the period from 12 August to 25 August 2021 and the sample of the test conducted must be taken through a combined nasal and throat swab which must not be taken by the person being tested, and ensure that the staff obtain SMS (mobile phone text message) notification containing the result of the test on or before 26 August 2021 and keep record of the SMS notification for 31 days; and (ii) undergo a polymerase chain reaction-based nucleic acid test for COVID-19 once every 7 days starting from 26 August 2021 and the sample(s) of the test(s) conducted must be taken through a combined nasal and throat swab which must not be taken by the person being tested, and ensure that the staff obtain SMS notification containing the result of the test before 2 September 2021 and the end of every subsequent 7 day period and keep record of each SMS notification for 31 days; or, adopt the alternative measure which is ensuring the staff members(s) involved in the operation of the business on the premises has/have

completed a COVID-19 vaccination course and keep the vaccination record as proof of vaccination; and

- (b) if a staff member involved in the operation of the business on the premises is unfit to receive COVID-19 vaccination because of health reasons, he/she must make a declaration to the relevant premises operator/employer using the specific form available on the COVID-19 Thematic Website / relevant FEHD webpage ([www.fehd.gov.hk/english/events/covid19/vaccine\\_bubble\\_download.html](http://www.fehd.gov.hk/english/events/covid19/vaccine_bubble_download.html)) and produce a medical certificate, as well as undergo a polymerase chain reaction-based nucleic acid test for COVID-19 once every 7 days and the sample(s) of the test(s) must be taken through a combined nasal and throat swab, and ensure that a SMS notification containing the result of the test is obtained before 19 August 2021 and the end of every subsequent 7 day period and keep record of each SMS notification for 31 days. The relevant premises operator/employer must keep the above declaration form while the relevant staff must keep the medical certificate.

(For details of the above requirements, please refer to the Government press release<sup>1</sup> issued on 17 August 2021, and Government Notice (GN) 520 of 2021<sup>2</sup> and GN 521 of 2021<sup>3</sup>.)

3. The Office of the Licensing Authority of the Home Affairs Department will conduct inspections to various premises to ascertain the compliance to the directions. Since the epidemic situation could fluctuate, special arrangements may have to be re-introduced at short notice. Please continue to pay attention to further updates available on the website of the Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health.

4. To safeguard public health and to allow the resuming of normal activities of society gradually, please support the COVID-19 Vaccination Programme.

Yours faithfully,

(signed)  
(Ms. PANG Mei-tuan, Pauline)  
Chief Officer (Licensing Authority)  
Office of the Licensing Authority

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<sup>1</sup> The press release is accessible at [www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202108/17/P2021081700802.htm](http://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202108/17/P2021081700802.htm)

<sup>2</sup> GN 520 of 2021 is accessible at [www.gld.gov.hk/egazette/pdf/202125220e/egn202125220520.pdf](http://www.gld.gov.hk/egazette/pdf/202125220e/egn202125220520.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> GN 521 of 2021 is accessible at [www.gld.gov.hk/egazette/pdf/202125220e/egn202125220521.pdf](http://www.gld.gov.hk/egazette/pdf/202125220e/egn202125220521.pdf)