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PRESS RELEASE

“Construction Industry COVID-19 Testing Day”
Identify hidden cases to Achieve the Goal of
“Early Identification, Early Isolation and Early Treatment of the Infected”

Hong Kong • 4 March 2022 – The fifth wave of the COVID-19 epidemic continues to rampage. With the support of the Development Bureau of the HKSAR Government (Government), the Construction Industry Council (CIC) and the industry today kick-start the first Construction Industry COVID-19 Testing Day (Testing Day), aiming to achieve the goal of “early identification, early isolation and early treatment of the infected” and encourage more construction practitioners to get vaccinated.

In addition to 4 March 2022, two more Testing Days will be organised by the CIC and the industry on 10 and 17 March 2022. During the morning working hours on these three designated days, all construction site supervisors will arrange for all construction workers and site personnel to undergo Rapid Antigen Tests (RAT) on the construction sites. Over 500,000 free RAT kits will be distributed to approximately 1,400 sites in Hong Kong with over 150,000 workers and site personnel taking the RAT. All free RAT kits are provided by the Government and distributed by the CIC and the industry.

Ir Thomas HO, Chairman of the CIC said, “The construction industry must unite in fighting against the epidemic, and assists frontline site personnel in strengthening their capability to combat the epidemic. With the support of the Development Bureau, the CIC, construction associations and unions hope that the launch of ‘Construction Industry COVID-19 Testing Day’ and ‘Vaccine Pass Arrangement at Construction Sites’ will help terminate the silent transmission chains in the community and further improve the vaccination rate in the industry. With the concerted effort in the industry, a survey shows that over 90% of vaccination rate is achieved in construction sites. We hope that all main contractors will continue to strengthen anti-epidemic measures at sites and raise workers awareness of epidemic prevention, so that everyone can be safe at work.”

Sr Eddie LAM, President of the Hong Kong Construction Association (HKCA) said, “To cope with the fifth wave of epidemic, the industry strongly support the ‘Construction Industry COVID-19 Testing Day’. We shall closely monitor the development of the epidemic and timely review the anti-epidemic measures at construction sites. The CIC and the HKCA also set up an inspection team, proactively carrying out site inspections on workers’ vaccination record and regular COVID-19 testing results. The team also inspects the anti-epidemic measures at sites, such as site entrance management, ventilation facilities, resting room and staff canteen arrangements, and recommend improvement measures. We once again appeal to the industry to join the concerted efforts to fight against the epidemic together.”

In addition, the CIC and industry stakeholders have decided to implement the Vaccine Pass arrangement at all construction sites in Hong Kong. Starting with a trial run on 7 March, the first stage of the Vaccine Pass arrangement will be implemented on 14 March, which all construction workers, site personnel and visitors are required to have received at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine to enter any construction sites. The second stage will be implemented on 14 April, by then, all of the abovementioned persons are required to have received at least two doses of COVID-19 vaccine. In mid-February, the CIC also published the “Escalate COVID-19 Risk Management at Construction Sites” guidelines and provided recommended anti-epidemic measures to the industry. The CIC also strongly encourages site personnel to get vaccinated as early as possible before the implementation of vaccine pass.

In addition to the CIC and the HKCA, the Hong Kong General Building Contractors Association, the Hong Kong Registered Contractors Association, the Hong Kong Construction Sub-Contractors Association, the Registered Specialist Trade Contractors Federation, and the Hong Kong Construction Industry Employees General Union. The above are the members of Task Force on Further Enhancing COVID-19 Preparedness of the Construction Industry (TF-PCI). The TF-PCI is chaired by Ir Ricky LAU, Permanent Secretary for Development (Works) and Ir Thomas HO, Chairman of the CIC. The TF-PCI will continue to monitor the development of the epidemic, review the effectiveness of the measures and recommend necessary new measures, so as to lead, connect and support the industry in strengthening the anti-epidemic effort.

The CIC and the HKCA once again appeals to all unvaccinated workers, site personnel (including those who are planning to visit construction sites) to get vaccinated as early as possible to protect themselves and their families. In addition to the Community Vaccination Centres, construction workers and site personnel could also get vaccinated with private doctors or clinics under the Vaccination Programme free of charge. Please visit the website of the Centre for Health Protection for details about the vaccination and the list of doctors / clinics enrolled in the Vaccination Programme:

<https://www.covidvaccine.gov.hk/en/VSS>.

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The Kai Tak Sports Park site located at Muk Tai Street participates in the Construction Industry COVID-19 Testing Day



After receiving the Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) kits, workers enter the construction site in separate groups



Workers take RAT at a designated location and wait for the results before they start working



Disinfection and cleaning is immediately carried out after each worker completes the test



**CONSTRUCTION
INDUSTRY COUNCIL**
建造業議會



香港建造商會
HKCA

Media Enquiries

Corporate Communications Department

Tel: 2100 9000

Fax: 2100 9090

Email: corpcomm@cic.hk

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.