

CHP investigates 64 additional cases of COVID-19

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health (DH) announced that as of 4pm today (March 28), the CHP is investigating 64 additional confirmed cases of COVID-19, taking the number of cases to 583 in Hong Kong so far (comprising 582 confirmed cases and one probable case).

Moreover, the DH has been progressively extending its Enhanced Laboratory Surveillance Programme. Free testing for COVID-19 has been offered to asymptomatic inbound travellers arriving from Japan this evening. Starting tomorrow morning, all asymptomatic inbound travellers arriving from all places under the Compulsory Quarantine of Persons Arriving at Hong Kong from Foreign Places Regulation (Cap. 599E) will be furthered covered by the Programme.

Specimen collection containers will be provided to these travellers at the Hong Kong International Airport (HKIA) for collection of their deep throat saliva samples for testing. The DH has set up a Temporary Specimen Collection Centre at the AsiaWorld-Expo (TSCC) to speed up the collection of specimen from inbound travellers from overseas for conducting testing for COVID-19, and facilitate those who have difficulty in arranging family members or friends to submit their specimen during home quarantine.

The DH urges the relevant inbound travellers to proceed to the TSCC immediately from the HKIA. They should provide their deep throat saliva sample in accordance with the instructions and submit it to the DH personnel on duty at the TSCC, for sending to the CHP's Public Health Laboratory Services Branch for COVID-19 testing as soon as possible.

Those travellers who opt to collect their own deep throat saliva sample during home quarantine should do so at the earliest opportunity and ask their family members or friends to deliver it to any of the collection points in the same morning. The collection points are 13 designated chest clinics or dermatological clinics under the DH from 9am to 11am on Monday to Sunday and also some General Out-patient clinics under the Hospital Authority from 8.30am to 9.30am on Monday to Friday (except public holiday).

The newly reported cases announced today involve 40 males and 24 females aged between 7 and 76. Among them, 47 had travel history during the incubation period and 26 are overseas students. The CHP's epidemiological investigations and relevant contact tracing on the confirmed cases are ongoing. For case details and contact tracing information, please see the Annex.

For information on flights that patients of the confirmed cases have taken, please refer to the following webpage: (www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/flights_trains_en.pdf). Passengers who travelled on

the same flights and sat within two seats surrounding those patients are urged to call the CHP hotlines 2125 1111 and 2125 1122.

The CHP urged members of the public to maintain an appropriate social distance with other people as far as possible in their daily lives. In particular, they should go out less and avoid social activities such as meal gatherings or other gatherings to reduce the chance of contacting infected persons, who may not present any symptoms, and minimise the risk of outbreak clusters emerging in the community.

In particular, the CHP reminded those who have returned to Hong Kong from overseas or visited overseas before the Compulsory Quarantine of Persons Arriving at Hong Kong from Foreign Places Regulation (Cap. 599E) took effect on March 19 that, although they are not subject to the 14-day compulsory quarantine, they should stay home and avoid going out as far as possible for 14 days. They should wear surgical mask, maintain stringent personal hygiene as a measure to protect themselves and their family members. They should seek medical advice as soon as possible if symptoms develop to safeguard the health of themselves, family and friends as well as the general public.

A spokesman for the CHP said, "In view of proliferation of the disease and continuous increase in the number of cases reported around the world, members of the public are strongly urged to avoid all non-essential travel outside Hong Kong."

"The CHP also strongly urges the public to maintain at all times strict personal and environmental hygiene, which is key to personal protection against infection and prevention of the spread of the disease in the community. On a personal level, members of the public should wear a surgical mask when having respiratory symptoms, taking public transport or staying in crowded places. They should also perform hand hygiene frequently, especially before touching the mouth, nose or eyes."

"As for household environmental hygiene, members of the public are advised to maintain drainage pipes properly, and regularly pour water into drain outlets (U-traps); cover all floor drain outlets when they are not in use; after using the toilet, they should put the toilet lid down before flushing to avoid spreading germs."

The CHP will report the cases to the World Health Organization, National Health Commission, Health Commission of Guangdong Province, relevant health authorities and the Hospital Authority.

The CHP has set up the hotlines (2125 1111 and 2125 1122), which operate from 8am to midnight daily, for public enquiries. As at 4pm today, a total of 65 657 calls were received.

Moreover, the Government has launched the website "COVID-19 Thematic Website" (www.coronavirus.gov.hk) for announcing the latest updates on various news on the COVID-19 infection and health advice to help the public understand the latest updates.

To prevent pneumonia and respiratory tract infection, members of the public should always maintain good personal and environmental hygiene. They are advised to:

- Wear a surgical mask when taking public transport or staying in crowded places. It is important to wear a mask properly, including hand hygiene before wearing and after removing a mask;
- Perform hand hygiene frequently, especially before touching the mouth, nose or eyes, after touching public installations such as handrails or door knobs, or when hands are contaminated by respiratory secretions after coughing or sneezing;
- Maintain drainage pipes properly and regularly (about once a week) pour about half a liter of water into each drain outlet (U-traps) to ensure environmental hygiene;
- Cover all floor drain outlets when they are not in use;
- After using the toilet, put the toilet lid down before flushing to avoid spreading germs;
- Wash hands with liquid soap and water, and rub for at least 20 seconds. Then rinse with water and dry with a disposable paper towel. If hand washing facilities are not available, or when hands are not visibly soiled, performing hand hygiene with 70 to 80 per cent alcohol-based handrub is an effective alternative;
- Cover your mouth and nose with tissue paper when sneezing or coughing. Dispose of soiled tissues into a lidded rubbish bin, then wash hands thoroughly; and
- When having respiratory symptoms, wear a surgical mask, refrain from work or attending class at school, avoid going to crowded places and seek medical advice promptly.

[Adjustment of bus services to and from Airport and HZMB Hong Kong Port](#)

The Transport Department (TD) announced today (March 28), in view of the implementation of enhanced anti-epidemic measures, among which non-Hong Kong residents coming by plane would be denied entry to Hong Kong with effect from March 25, and the significant drop in the number of cross-boundary passengers using the Airport, the following bus services serving in different districts to and from the Airport and the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge (HZMB) Hong Kong Port (HKP) will be adjusted starting from April 1 (Wednesday).

1. Citybus (CTB) routes No. A11, A21, A22, A29, E23, E23A and N21 – their service headways will be lengthened by not more than 15 minutes throughout the operation period.

2. Long Win (LWB) routes No. A31, A32, A33X, A36, A37, A41, A41P, A43, E31, E32A, E34A, E34B, E42, NA33 and NA34 – their service headways will be lengthened by not more than 15 minutes during peak hours and adjusted to not more than 60 minutes during non-peak hours.
3. CTB routes No. A10, A12, A20 and A26, and LWB routes No. A38, A43P and A47X – their service hours will be revised and their headways will be adjusted to or maintained in not more than 60 minutes. For LWB route No. A33, one departure will be operated in each direction during peak hours. Details of the service arrangements are given in the Annex.
4. CTB routes No. A17, A23 and NA12 (one departure daily) will be suspended due to persistent low passenger demand. Passengers of CTB route No. A17 can take other public transport services and interchange with CTB route Nos. A11 or A12. Passengers of CTB route No. A23 can take alternative services operating in the vicinity, such as CTB routes No. A22, E23 or E23A, etc. Passengers of CTB route No. NA12 can take NWF routes No. N8, N8P or CTB N8X and interchange with CTB route No. NA11.

Passengers going to and from the Airport and HZMB HKP, apart from taking those Airport bus routes in service and making interchanges, may also consider taking Airport Express and interchanging with other bus services. Passengers are advised to check with the public transport operators concerned on the detailed service arrangements and allow sufficient traveling time.

The TD has approved the service adjustments of the relevant bus routes for a period of seven days. We will take into consideration the actual circumstances to review the service adjustments each week and keep contact with the bus companies to adjust the services according to the needs of passengers. Passengers should pay attention to the Government's latest announcements.

Update on COVID-19 test centres

The following is issued on behalf of the Hospital Authority:

From March 20 to 9pm today (March 28), 533 and 131 people have been referred to the test centres at the AsiaWorld-Expo and North Lantau Hospital respectively for COVID-19 viral test. So far, 575 people have negative test results for COVID-19 and have returned to their residence to continue the home quarantine.

Preliminary positive test results will be further confirmed by the Department of Health and announced as confirmed cases in due course.

Public hospitals daily update on COVID-19 cases

The following is issued on behalf of the Hospital Authority:

As at noon today (March 28), public hospitals had reported to the Department of Health the admission of 302 patients (144 male and 158 female, aged 1 to 95) in the past 24 hours who met the reporting criteria of COVID-19. Appropriate tests have been arranged for the patients.

There are 501 patients under isolation currently. So far, 112 patients who had COVID-19 confirmed or probable infection have been discharged upon recovery.

The Hospital Authority will maintain close contact with the Centre for Health Protection to monitor the latest developments and to inform the public and healthcare workers on the latest information in a timely manner.

Buildings Department adjusts its public services from March 30

In view of the latest situation of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Buildings Department (BD) announced today (March 28) that from next Monday (March 30), for the sake of reducing social contact, the opening hours of the Receipt and Dispatch Counter located at the office of the BD's New Buildings Divisions at 7/F, 14 Taikoo Wan Road, Taikoo Shing, Hong Kong, will be adjusted to 8.30am to 3pm on Monday, Wednesday and Friday (except public holidays) for receipt of statutory submissions and related documents and forms for new building works, and for applicants to collect the relevant plans and documents that have been processed.

The BD will maintain other emergency, essential and limited public services listed in the press release issued on March 22.

Emergency reports can be made on 1823. For general enquiries and reports, members of the public may call 1823 or inform the department by email (enquiry@bd.gov.hk), online reporting (eform.one.gov.hk/form/bd0001/en), fax (2537 4992) or post (North Tower, West Kowloon Government Offices, 11 Hoi Ting Road, Yau Ma Tei, Kowloon). In addition, electronic information can be submitted to the BD via

receipt@bd.gov.hk.