

Pamela Youde Nethersole Eastern Hospital announces a preliminary positive case of COVID-19 infection

The following is issued on behalf of the Hospital Authority:

The spokesperson for Pamela Youde Nethersole Eastern Hospital (PYNEH) today (August 23) made the following announcement concerning a preliminary positive case of COVID-19 infection:

A 44-year-old female patient was admitted to a medical ward of PYNEH on July 27 for relapsed acute myeloid leukemia (AML) requiring chemotherapy treatment. She was tested negative for COVID-19 upon admission. She then developed persistent fever and was diagnosed of bacterial infections during hospitalisation. Antibiotic treatment and chemotherapy were given. She started to have mild respiratory symptoms and chest infection on August 13. Due to her AML condition, she was arranged to stay in a single room from August 18 to 20. In view of the persistent fever, viral testing was conducted again for the patient on August 22 and her deep throat saliva specimen was tested preliminarily positive for COVID-19. The patient is now in stable condition under isolation treatment.

The hospital was informed by the Centre for Health Protection (CHP) today that the concerned patient was one of the household close contacts of a male patient earlier confirmed with COVID-19 infection (case number: 2979).

The hospital's infection control team immediately conducted contact tracing upon the test result and no COVID-19 confirmed case is found in the medical wards which the female patient concerned stayed in. In addition, 52 patients who had stayed in the same cubicle of the medical ward with the concerned patient were classified as close contact. Among them, 17 patients are still staying in the hospital or Tung Wah Eastern Hospital. Six of them have been isolated and tested negative to COVID-19, while the rest will be arranged for viral testing. The hospital will also follow up closely with CHP on the required quarantine arrangement of the remaining 35 discharged patients.

No aerosol generating procedure has been performed for the female patient in general wards. All healthcare workers who provided treatment and care to the patient concerned were equipped with appropriate personal protective equipment in accordance with the infection control guidelines of the Hospital Authority and none is classified as a close contact. As a precautionary measure, the hospital will arrange viral tests and medical surveillance for staff members concerned.

The hospital had arranged thorough cleansing and disinfection in the medical ward concerned. Patient admission and discharge of the concerned ward

has been suspended. The hospital would continue to closely monitor the health condition of the staff and other patients and maintain communication with CHP about the latest situation.

CHP investigates 25 additional confirmed cases of COVID-19

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health has announced that as of 0.00am, August 23, the CHP was investigating 25 additional confirmed cases of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), taking the number of cases to 4 683 in Hong Kong so far (comprising 4 682 confirmed cases and one probable case).

Among the newly reported cases announced, six had a travel history during the incubation period.

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 or the list of buildings with confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the past 14 days and the latest local situation of COVID-19 available on the website "COVID-19 Thematic Website" (www.coronavirus.gov.hk).

In view of the severe epidemic situation, the CHP called on members of the public to avoid going out, having social contact and dining out. They should put on a surgical mask and maintain stringent hand hygiene when they need to go out. As a number of recent cases involve elderly people, the CHP strongly urged the elderly to stay home as far as possible and avoid going out. They should consider asking their family and friends to help with everyday tasks such as shopping for basic necessities.

A spokesman for the CHP said, "Given that the situation of COVID-19 infection remains severe and that there is a 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, regularly pour water into drain

outlets (U-traps) and 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."

Moreover, the Government has launched the website "COVID-19 Thematic Website" (www.coronavirus.gov.hk) for announcing the latest updates on various news on COVID-19 infection and health advice to help the public understand the latest updates. Members of the public may also gain access to information via the COVID-19 WhatsApp Helpline launched by the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer. Simply by saving 9617 1823 in their phone contacts or clicking the link wa.me/85296171823?text=hi, they will be able to obtain information on COVID-19 as well as the "StayHomeSafe" mobile app and wristband via WhatsApp.

To prevent pneumonia and respiratory tract infections, 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 performing 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 doorknobs, 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 litre of water into each drain outlet (U-trap) 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.

Correctional Services Department

clarifies unfounded media report

â€‹With regard to an unfounded media report claiming that an Assistant Officer has been interdicted for being suspected of having an intimate relationship with the girlfriend of a dangerous drugs trafficker under custody, the Correctional Services Department (CSD) today (August 23) makes the following statement:

The CSD stresses that according to the existing information, no correctional officer has been interdicted or placed under investigation due to the situation as reported, nor has the CSD received any similar complaint.

The CSD attaches great importance to the conduct, integrity and ethics of its staff, and will take action according to the law if any staff member is found violating the law.

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Public hospitals daily update on COVID-19 cases

The following is issued on behalf of the Hospital Authority:

As at 9am today (August 23), 44 COVID-19 confirmed patients were discharged from hospital in the last 24 hours. So far, a total of 4 018 patients with confirmed or probable infection have been discharged.

At present, there are 690 negative pressure rooms in public hospitals with 1 251 negative pressure beds activated. A total of 536 confirmed patients are currently hospitalised in 20 public hospitals, a community isolation facility and a community treatment facility, among which 26 patients are in critical condition, 38 are in serious condition and the remaining 472 patients are in stable condition.

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.

Details of the above-mentioned patients are as follows:

Patient condition	Case numbers
Discharged	2587, 2590, 3307, 3340, 3421, 3522, 3562, 3642, 3727, 3804, 3805, 3899, 3909, 3957, 3961, 4035, 4043, 4054, 4078, 4079, 4089, 4091, 4113, 4140, 4154, 4163, 4193, 4210, 4218, 4233, 4332, 4340, 4399, 4427, 4446, 4471, 4494, 4507, 4516, 4538, 4549, 4568, 4623, 4637
Critical	1401, 1470, 1650, 1779, 1835, 1989, 2007, 2282, 2792, 2890, 2912, 2968, 3308, 3434, 3626, 3635, 3764, 3904, 3949, 3960, 4101, 4187, 4213, 4222, 4306, 4429
Serious	1316, 1956, 1968, 2078, 2079, 2334, 2362, 2576, 2577, 2702, 2746, 2748, 2940, 2962, 2966, 2988, 2989, 3274, 3366, 3377, 3408, 3461, 3496, 3497, 3539, 3617, 3621, 3744, 3761, 3968, 4059, 4072, 4096, 4148, 4272, 4419, 4526, 4583