

CHP investigates 11 additional confirmed cases of COVID-19

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health has announced that as of 4pm today (July 4), the CHP was investigating 11 additional confirmed cases of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), taking the number of cases to 1 259 in Hong Kong so far (comprising 1 258 confirmed cases and one probable case).

The newly reported cases announced today involve six males and five females aged between 28 and 62. They had travel history during the incubation period. The 1 252nd case involves a 54-year-old man with good past health. During incubation period, he travelled to Kazakhstan and Turkey from June 11 to June 30. He developed cough on June 25 and subsided after a few days. The patient is a cargo pilot exempted from the compulsory quarantine requirement and is under medical surveillance upon his return to Hong Kong. He has been all along asymptomatic after returning to Hong Kong and mainly stayed at home. He attended a private practitioner yesterday (July 3). His deep throat saliva specimen was tested positive for severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 today and has been arranged for management at Princess Margaret Hospital. His wife and daughter are asymptomatic and have been arranged quarantine.

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.

The CHP again urged members of the public to maintain an appropriate social distance with other people as far as possible in their daily lives to minimise the risk of infection. 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.

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 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 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.
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Public hospitals daily update on COVID-19 cases

The following is issued on behalf of the Hospital Authority:

As at noon today (July 4), 20 COVID-19 confirmed patients (case numbers: 1114, 1115, 1120, 1126, 1131, 1133, 1139, 1140, 1141, 1151, 1152, 1155, 1156, 1161, 1163, 1164, 1171, 1172, 1175 and 1177) were discharged from hospital in the past 24 hours. So far, a total of 1 145 patients with confirmed or probable infection have been discharged.

At present, there are 602 negative pressure rooms in public hospitals with 1 170 negative pressure beds activated. A total of 96 confirmed patients are currently hospitalised in eight hospitals, among which one patient is in critical condition (case number: 595), and the remaining 95 patients are in stable condition.

The HA 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.

Update on Candida auris carrier cases at PMH

The following is issued on behalf of the Hospital Authority:

Regarding an earlier announcement on Candida auris carrier cases, the spokesperson for Princess Margaret Hospital (PMH) gave the following update today (July 4):

According to the contact tracing result, two more male patients (aged 60 and 89) who have stayed in the same cubicle of the Medicine and Geriatric Ward have been confirmed as carrying Candida auris while not having signs of infection. Both patients are treated under isolation. One of the patients is in serious condition due to his own underlying disease and the other patient is in stable condition. In accordance with the prevailing guidelines, PMH has continued contact tracing for the patients. The following enhanced infection control measures have already been adopted:

1. Thorough cleansing and disinfection of the wards concerned
2. Enhance patient and environmental screening procedures
3. Apply stringent contact precautions and enhance hand hygiene of staff and patients

The hospital will continue to closely monitor the situation of the patients. The cases have been reported to the Hospital Authority Head Office and the Centre for Health Protection for necessary follow-up.

HAD to open temporary night heat shelters

The Home Affairs Department will open 19 temporary night heat shelters tonight (July 4) for people in need of the service.

The shelters will be open from 10.30pm until 8am tomorrow.

For further information, please call the department's hotline before midnight on 2572 8427.

The 19 night heat shelters are located at:

Hong Kong Districts:

Central and Western –

Sai Ying Pun Community Complex Community Hall
3/F, Sai Ying Pun Community Complex
2 High Street, Sai Ying Pun

Eastern –

Causeway Bay Community Centre
3/F, 7 Fook Yum Road, Causeway Bay

Southern –

Lei Tung Community Hall
Lei Tung Estate, Ap Lei Chau

Wan Chai –

Wan Chai Activities Centre
LG/F, Wan Chai Market, 258 Queen's Road East, Wan Chai

Kowloon Districts:

Kowloon City –

Hung Hom Community Hall
1/F, Kowloon City Government Offices
42 Bailey Street, Hung Hom

Kwun Tong –

Lam Tin (West) Estate Community Centre

71 Kai Tin Road, Lam Tin

Sham Shui Po –

Shek Kip Mei Community Hall

G/F, Block 42, Shek Kip Mei Estate, Sham Shui Po

Wong Tai Sin –

Tsz Wan Shan (South) Estate Community Centre

45 Wan Wah Street, Tsz Wan Shan

Yau Tsim Mong –

Henry G. Leong Yaumatei Community Centre

60 Public Square Street, Yau Ma Tei

New Territories Districts:

Islands –

Tung Chung Community Hall

G/F, Tung Chung Municipal Services Building,

39 Man Tung Road, Tung Chung

Kwai Tsing –

Kwai Shing Community Hall

Podium, Block 6, Kwai Shing West Estate, Kwai Chung

North –

North District Community Centre

4/F, 2 Lung Wan Street, Sheung Shui

Sai Kung –

Hang Hau Community Hall

G/F, Sai Kung Tseung Kwan O Government Complex,

38 Pui Shing Road, Hang Hau, Tseung Kwan O

Sha Tin –

Lung Hang Estate Community Centre

Lung Hang Estate, Sha Tin

Tai Po –

Tai Po Community Centre

2 Heung Sze Wui Street, Tai Po

Tsuen Wan –

Lei Muk Shue Community Hall

G/F, Hong Shue House, Lei Muk Shue Estate, Tsuen Wan

Tuen Mun –

Butterfly Bay Community Centre

Butterfly Estate (near Tip Sum House), Tuen Mun

Yuen Long –

Long Ping Community Hall

Long Ping Estate, Yuen Long

Yuen Long –
Tin Yiu Community Centre
Tin Yiu Estate, Tin Shui Wai

Correctional officers intercept smuggling of suspected dangerous drugs into Lai Chi Kok Reception Centre

Correctional officers at Lai Chi Kok Reception Centre today (July 4) intercepted a male remand person in custody smuggling suspected dangerous drugs into the centre by concealing them inside his body.

The 58-year-old remand person in custody was remanded for the offence of trafficking in a dangerous drug on July 3. After undergoing X-ray body scanning, he was suspected to have swallowed dangerous drugs before admission. He was therefore separated and put under close monitoring.

At 12.10pm today, 6 packs of suspected dangerous drugs wrapped in plastic sheet were discharged from him and the case was reported to the Police for follow-up.

A spokesman for the Correctional Services Department said, "The department takes every measure to stop the introduction of dangerous drugs or unauthorised articles into correctional institutions in order to maintain good order and discipline and a drug-free environment for all persons in custody."