

Two men holding charged with murder and robbery

Police today (May 31) laid a holding charge against two men, aged 55 and 56, each with one count of murder and one count of robbery.

The two men were arrested yesterday (May 30) in suspected connection with a murder case happened in Cheung Sha Wan in which a 55-year-old woman died.

The case will be mentioned at Kowloon City Magistrates' Courts tomorrow (June 1).

Public hospitals daily update on COVID-19 cases

The following is issued on behalf of the Hospital Authority:

As at noon today (May 31), one COVID-19 confirmed patient (case number: 1051) was discharged from hospital in the past 24 hours. So far, a total of 1 037 confirmed and suspected patients have been discharged.

At present, there are 659 negative pressure rooms in public hospitals with 1 219 negative pressure beds activated. A total of 44 confirmed patients are currently hospitalised in nine hospitals, among which two patients are in critical condition (case number: 595 and 1084), and the remaining 42 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.

CHP investigates two additional confirmed cases of COVID-19

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health has

announced that as of 4pm today (May 31), the CHP was investigating two additional confirmed cases of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), taking the number of cases to 1 085 in Hong Kong so far (comprising 1 084 confirmed cases and one probable case).

The newly reported cases announced today involves a 34-year-old female patient and a 56-year-old male patient. 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.

A spokesman for the CHP said, "The CHP has been closely monitoring the situation of local and overseas cases. From June onwards, the CHP will continue to announce confirmed cases which are imported and imported-related on press releases whereas press briefings will be held to give details on confirmed cases with unknown source."

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.

The spokesman 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 the 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 get 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.

Red flag hoisted at Pui O Beach

Attention TV/radio announcers:

Please broadcast the following as soon as possible:

Here is an item of interest to swimmers.

The Leisure and Cultural Services Department announced today (May 31) that due to big waves, red flag has been hoisted at Pui O Beach in Islands District. Beach-goers are advised not to swim at the beach.

Hong Kong residents stranded in Nepal to take special flights back home

A Government spokesman said today (May 31) that to assist Hong Kong residents stranded in Nepal to leave there, the Government has co-ordinated with the Consulate General of Nepal in Hong Kong (Consulate General) and a local airline to arrange two special flights to bring them home. The special flights are tentatively scheduled to depart Kathmandu on June 1. The flights are expected to carry about 330 passengers to return Hong Kong.

Upon arrival in Hong Kong, the returnees from Nepal will proceed to the Department of Health's Temporary Specimen Collection Centre at AsiaWorld-Expo for compulsory COVID-19 testing. After their deep throat saliva samples are collected, the returnees will be transferred to the quarantine centre at Chun Yeung Estate, Fo Tan, for a 14-day compulsory quarantine period.

In view of the COVID-19 pandemic situation, Nepal has imposed strict restrictions on all land and air traffic since late March, Hong Kong residents in Nepal cannot arrange flights to leave there on their own. After receiving requests for assistance from Hong Kong residents, the Security Bureau and the Immigration Department (ImmD) have been following up with the Chinese Embassy in Nepal and the Office of the Commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region on different fronts; and maintaining close co-operation with the Consulate General to proactively liaise with airlines for securing flight bookings for the affected Hong Kong residents to leave Nepal.

As at May 30, the ImmD received assistance requests from about 1 300 Hong Kong residents stranded in Nepal concerning their home passage to Hong Kong. Most of the assistance seekers are currently located in Bagmati and Gandaki provinces in the central part of Nepal.

The Government will continue to liaise with the Consulate General and airlines to arrange other special flights to assist the stranded Hong Kong residents to return home orderly in batches.