

Clusters of Norovirus and Influenza A cases announced at Kowloon Hospital

The following is issued on behalf of the Hospital Authority.

The spokesman for Kowloon Hospital made the following announcement today (February 17):

Four patients (aged 81 to 94) in a male rehabilitation ward have presented with symptoms of fever or respiratory symptoms since February 7. Appropriate viral tests were arranged for the patients, and their test results were positive for Influenza A. One patient is in critical condition due to his underlying illness. The three remaining patients are in stable condition.

In addition, five patients (aged 50 to 98 years old) in a female respiratory medicine ward have presented with vomiting or diarrhoea symptoms since February 3 and were positive for Norovirus after viral tests. The five patients are now being treated in isolation and are in stable condition.

The hospital has enhanced the following infection control measures in accordance with prevailing guidelines in the two wards concerned:

1. thorough cleaning and disinfection of the wards concerned, including the environment and medical equipment;
2. enhanced medical surveillance of the patients and environmental screening procedures in the wards concerned; and
3. applied stringent contact precautions and enhanced hand hygiene of staff.

The cases have been reported to the Hospital Authority Head Office and the Centre for Health Protection for necessary follow up.