

# Mainland epidemic prevention and control experts attend exchange meeting on sewage-related virus surveillance (with photos)

The Mainland epidemic prevention and control expert delegation led by the Director of the National Institute for Communicable Disease Control and Prevention of the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention, Mr Kan Biao, yesterday (April 14) held a meeting with the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) and the Drainage Services Department (DSD) to exchange expertise and share experience in implementing the sewage surveillance programme.

Deputy Director of Environmental Protection Dr Samuel Chui briefed the expert delegation on the technological development, practical experience and achievements of utilising sewage surveillance to assist in Hong Kong's anti-epidemic work since the fourth wave of the epidemic broke out at the end of 2020. He also explained the changing strategies in the process in response to the epidemic trend and the future plans.

Mr Kan in concluding the meeting said he recognised the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government's effectiveness in providing early alert on the emergence of epidemic situation, tracking its spread in districts by sewage surveillance, and assisting in tracing hidden infection cases through sewage surveillance. He expressed gratitude to the EPD for sharing their data analysis which would serve as a reference for Mainland cities.

The expert delegation also visited an on-site sewage monitoring station to learn about the process of collecting sewage samples by the DSD. They also visited the Environmental Microbiome Engineering and Biotechnology Laboratory of the University of Hong Kong (HKU) and discussed sewage testing technology with Professor Zhang Tong of the Department of Civil Engineering of HKU.

