

North District Hospital announces a nurse tested preliminarily positive to COVID-19

The following is issued on behalf of the Hospital Authority:

The spokesperson for the North District Hospital made the following announcement today (January 20) regarding a nurse tested preliminarily positive to COVID-19:

A nurse in the medical department started experiencing mild malaise on January 18. She attended a community testing centre for COVID-19 viral test yesterday (January 19) and was notified today that she has tested preliminary positive. She is now being treated under isolation at the Prince of Wales Hospital in stable condition.

The nurse had worked in the isolation ward recently. Her daily clinical duties included taking care of COVID-19 patients and she had been wearing appropriate personal protective equipment during work. Her last date of duty was January 14.

The hospital infection control team is working with the Centre for Health Protection (CHP) on contact tracing. Four nurses in the medical department who have had social gathering with the confirmed nurse in recent days are classified as close contact and quarantine will be arranged. They have all undergone COVID-19 tests and the results are pending. As the nurse has been wearing appropriate personal protective equipment during work, no patient is classified as close contact.

As a precautionary measure, viral tests and medical surveillance are being arranged for relevant staff in the isolation ward and the department of medicine. Thorough cleansing and disinfection of the areas where the nurse has worked and rested has been arranged. The hospital will continue to closely monitor the health condition of the concerned staff members and communicate with the CHP on the latest situation.

The hospital has reminded colleagues once again to avoid having meal together and social gathering and that they should keep social distance to minimise infection risk. Staff who feel concerned that they carry a higher risk can contact their supervisor or the hospital infection control team to arrange COVID-19 test.