

CHP investigates three additional cases of novel coronavirus infection

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health (DH) announced that as of 8pm today (February 13), the CHP is investigating three additional case of novel coronavirus infection, taking to 53 the number of confirmed cases so far in Hong Kong.

One case involves a 43-year-old man (the 51st case) who is a relative of the 66-year-old male patient of the 47th case confirmed on February 11. The patient has good past health and lives in Tsz Tin Tsuen, Tuen Mun. He developed cough since January 29, and diarrhoea and vomiting since January 31. He consulted two private doctors during January 31 to February 8. The patient sought medical attention at Tuen Mun Hospital on February 12 and was admitted for management. His respiratory sample was tested positive for novel coronavirus and he is now in a stable condition. The patient had no travel history during the incubation period. He had attended a family banquet on January 30 where the patient of the 47th case was also present.

The other two cases involve a 67-year-old woman (the 52nd case) and her 37-year-old son (the 53rd case). They both had dinner with the patients of three confirmed cases (the 46th, 48th and 49th case) at Star Seafood Restaurant in North Point on January 26 evening.

The 67-year-old female patient, who is the younger sister-in-law of the 75-year-old male patient of the 46th case, has good past health. She lives at Mount Parker Lodge in Quarry Bay on weekdays and stays with her son at Heung Hoi Mansion on 28-32 O'Brien Road in Wan Chai on weekends. She developed cough on January 31 and then fever and chills since February 1. She consulted private doctors on January 31, February 3 and 7. She then sought treatment from Ruttonjee Hospital on February 12 where she was admitted for treatment. Her respiratory sample was tested positive for novel coronavirus and she is now in a stable condition. The patient had no travel history during the incubation period. Her close contacts, namely her daughter, son-in-law, grandson, granddaughter and domestic helper, are all asymptomatic and will be arranged for quarantine.

The 37-year-old male patient, with good past health, lives at Heung Hoi Mansion. He developed fever on February 8 and consulted a private doctor on February 9. He sought treatment from Ruttonjee Hospital on February 12 and was admitted for treatment. His respiratory sample was tested positive for novel coronavirus and he is now in a stable condition. The patient had no travel history during the incubation period.

A spokesman for the CHP said, "According to our preliminary epidemiological investigations, some of the confirmed cases are locally infected. The CHP strongly urged 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."

The spokesman said, "On the 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. The public should go out less and reduce social activities, and maintain appropriate social distance with other people as far as possible."

"As for household environmental hygiene, members of the public are advised to maintain drainage pipes properly and regularly pour water into drain outlets (U-traps); after using the toilet, they should put the toilet lid down before flushing to avoid spreading germs."

The CHP will report the cases to the World Health Organization, National Health Commission, Health Commission of Guangdong Province and Health Bureau of Macao.

The CHP's epidemiological investigations and relevant contact tracing on the confirmed cases are ongoing. The CHP is also closely monitoring and following up on the contact tracing of relevant confirmed cases in the Mainland and overseas. Quarantine will be arranged for close contacts while medical surveillance will be arranged for other contacts. For the progress on the contact tracing of the cases, please see annex.

The CHP has set up a hotline (2125 1122) for public enquiries. The hotline operates from 8am to midnight daily. As at 4pm today, a total of 12 655 calls were received.

A dedicated webpage (www.gov.hk/ncv) has been set up by the CHP. Information including the latest local situation, list of buildings and list of flights/trains/ships relevant to the confirmed cases, countries/areas with reported cases as well as health advice and a "Novel Coronavirus Infection Local Situation Interactive Map Dashboard" are available on the webpage to help the public grasp the latest updates.

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 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 door knobs; 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 liter of water into each drain outlet (U-traps) to ensure environmental hygiene;
- 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.

The public should take heed of the health advice below when travelling outside Hong Kong:

- Do not travel to Hubei Province where community transmission of novel coronavirus is occurring;
 - Avoid close contact with persons with fever or respiratory symptoms in countries/areas with possible community transmission of novel coronavirus infection. If it is unavoidable to come into contact with them, put on a surgical mask and continue to do so until 14 days after returning to Hong Kong;
 - Avoid visiting hospitals. If it is necessary to visit a hospital, put on a surgical mask and observe strict personal and hand hygiene;
 - Avoid touching animals (including game), poultry/birds or their droppings;
 - Avoid visiting wet markets, live poultry markets or farms;
 - Avoid making close contact with patients, especially those with symptoms of acute respiratory infections;
 - Do not consume game meat and do not patronise food premises where game meat is served;
 - Adhere to food safety and hygiene rules such as avoiding consuming raw or undercooked animal products, including milk, eggs and meat, or foods which may be contaminated by animal secretions, excretions (such as urine) or contaminated products, unless they have been properly cooked, washed or peeled;
 - If feeling unwell when outside Hong Kong, especially if experiencing a fever or cough, wear a surgical mask, inform the hotel staff or tour escort and seek medical advice at once; and
 - After returning to Hong Kong, consult a doctor promptly if experiencing a fever or other symptoms, take the initiative to inform the doctor of any recent travel history and any exposure to animals, and wear a surgical mask to help prevent spread of the disease.
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Announcement by Judiciary

The following is issued on behalf of the Judiciary:

Attention duty announcers, radio and TV stations:

Please broadcast the following as soon as possible and repeat it at suitable intervals:

The Judiciary today (February 13) announced that in view of public health considerations, all hearings of the courts/tribunals originally scheduled from February 17 (Monday) to February 23 (Sunday) will generally be adjourned to a date to be fixed.

Despite the general adjournment, the courts will continue to handle urgent and essential hearings/matters during this period. These include fresh remand cases, urgent and essential criminal matters including bail-related and sentencing hearings, and other urgent applications to the courts. They will continue to be handled in accordance with the established mechanisms including the Duty Judge system. Parties or others concerned will continue to be separately notified by the respective courts of the details in respect of the above hearings/matters.

Court/tribunal registries and offices will continue to be closed until February 23 except for providing support for the handling of the above urgent and essential court hearings/matters.

For enquiries regarding general arrangements on the court businesses during the period, the following hotlines are being operated from Monday to Friday 10am to 1pm and 2pm to 4pm:

- General Information: 2869 0869
- Court of Final Appeal: 2123 0123
- High Court: 2523 2212
- Probate: 2840 1683
- District Court: 2845 5696
- Family Court: 2840 1218
- Lands Tribunal: 2771 3034
- Labour Tribunal: 2625 0020
- Small Claims Tribunal: 2877 4068
- Magistrates' Courts: 2677 8373

The Judiciary will continue to post updated information including Daily Cause Lists and advice to court users visiting the courts during this period on the Judiciary website (www.judiciary.hk). Court users are advised to check the website for updated information as necessary.

Special Work Arrangement of the Office of the Ombudsman to be extended

The following is issued on behalf of the Office of The Ombudsman:

To continue to help reduce the risk of the spread of the novel coronavirus in the community, the Office of the Ombudsman will only provide basic and limited service. The Reception Counter will not open. Such arrangement will be implemented until February 23. The Office will review the situation before then.

Members of the public may contact us for enquiry or complaint through email, fax, hotline voice message or online form.

Appeal for information on missing woman in Hung Hom (with photo)

Police today (February 13) appealed to the public for information on a woman who went missing in Hung Hom.

Chan Cheuk-ting Jessica, aged 25, went missing after she left her residence in Oi Man Estate on February 11 morning. Her family made a report to Police on February 12.

She is about 1.5 metres tall, 61 kilograms in weight and of fat build. She has a round face with yellow complexion and short black hair. She was last seen wearing a, face mask, a purple jacket, black trousers, black sports shoes and carrying a blue backpack and a white handbag.

Anyone who knows the whereabouts of the missing woman or may have seen her is urged to contact the Regional Missing Person Unit of Kowloon West on 3661 8037 or 9020 6542 or email to rmpu-kw@police.gov.hk, or contact any police station.



CE's statement

The Chief Executive, Mrs Carrie Lam, today (February 13) issued the following statement on the appointment of Mr Xia Baolong, Vice-Chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), as the Director of the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office (HKMAO) of the State Council:

I extend a warm welcome to the appointment of Mr Xia Baolong as the Director of the HKMAO, in addition to his current capacity as the Vice-Chairman of the National Committee of the CPPCC. As the HKMAO is responsible for Hong Kong affairs in the Central Government, it has a close relationship with the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government. The appointment of Mr Xia as the HKMAO Director in addition to his capacity as the Vice-Chairman of the National Committee of the CPPCC is testimony to the importance the Central Government attaches to Hong Kong and Macao affairs. I have no doubt that under the leadership of Mr Xia, the HKMAO will continue its support for the work of the HKSAR Government in fully and thoroughly implementing "One Country, Two Systems", taking forward the development of Hong Kong in various aspects and ensuring the long-term prosperity and stability of the city.