

# CHP investigates additional case of novel coronavirus infection

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health (DH) announced that as of 8pm today (February 2), the CHP is investigating one additional case of novel coronavirus infection, taking to 15 the number of confirmed cases so far in Hong Kong. The public is strongly urged to maintain strict personal, food and environmental hygiene both locally and during travel.

The new case involves a 72-year-old woman with underlying illness who is the mother of the patient of the 13th case. She lives in Block 1, Site 11, Whampoa Garden. She was transferred to Lei Yue Mun Park and Holiday Village for quarantine since February 1. She developed fever and cough on the same day and was sent to Queen Elizabeth Hospital where she was admitted for isolation and management. The patient's respiratory sample was tested positive for novel coronavirus. She was transferred to Princess Margaret Hospital for further management today and is now in stable condition.

The CHP has immediately commenced epidemiological investigations and conducted relevant contact tracing. According to the patient's information, she had no travel history and mainly stayed at home during the incubation period. The remaining four household contacts, namely her daughter-in-law, grandson, granddaughter and domestic helper, continued to stay in Lei Yue Mun Park and Holiday Village for quarantine and remained asymptomatic. Investigations are ongoing.

The CHP will report the case to the World Health Organization (WHO), National Health Commission (NHC), Health Commission of Guangdong Province and Health Bureau of Macao.

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 the cases, which operates from 8am to 9pm daily to answer public enquiries. As at 4pm today, a total of 2 647 calls were received.

A dedicated webpage ([www.chp.gov.hk/en/features/102465.html](http://www.chp.gov.hk/en/features/102465.html)) has been set up by the CHP to provide relevant information and health advice on Severe Respiratory Disease associated with a Novel Infectious Agent. Information of the latest notifications received from the Mainland and overseas will be updated to the CHP website ([www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/statistics\\_of\\_the\\_cases\\_novel\\_coronavirus\\_infection\\_en.pdf](http://www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/statistics_of_the_cases_novel_coronavirus_infection_en.pdf)) daily at 9am and 6pm to help the public grasp information on the affected countries/areas.

A spokesman for the CHP said, "The CHP will continue to maintain its liaison with the NHC, WHO and the relevant health authorities, and closely monitor the situation for risk assessment."

Hong Kong residents returning from the Mainland should take note of the following health advice:

- Members of the public returning to Hong Kong from the Mainland should stay home as far as possible if circumstances allow. Those who need to go out should wear a surgical mask for 14 days after returning to Hong Kong;
- Hong Kong residents who have visited Hubei Province in the past 14 days should wear a surgical mask immediately and approach staff of the DH's Port Health Division upon arrival. They will be quarantined for observation after a health assessment.
- Hong Kong residents who had been to Hubei Province in the past 14 days but have already returned to Hong Kong should wear a surgical mask immediately and contact the DH for arrangement to be quarantined for observation.

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;
- 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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## [Hong Kong Customs detects two passenger drug trafficking cases at airport in a day \(with photos\)](#)

â€‹Hong Kong Customs yesterday (February 1) detected two cases of drug trafficking by passengers at Hong Kong International Airport. About 11 kilograms of suspected ketamine and about 1 kilogram of suspected cocaine with an estimated market value of about \$7.2 million were seized in total.

A male passenger and a female passenger arrived in Hong Kong on the same flight from Paris, France on yesterday. During customs clearance, about 11kg of suspected ketamine were found concealed inside the false compartments of their checked-in suitcases.

Also, a male passenger arrived in Hong Kong from Johannesburg, South Africa was intercepted by Customs officers for examination. About 1kg of suspected cocaine was found concealed inside the false compartments of the shoes worn by him. The three passengers were then arrested.

The two arrestees involved in the case of trafficking in suspected ketamine have been jointly charged with one count of trafficking in a

dangerous drug. The arrestee involved in the case of trafficking in suspected cocaine has also been charged with one count of trafficking in a dangerous drug. The two cases will be brought up at Kowloon City Magistrates' Courts tomorrow (February 3).

Customs will continue to apply a risk assessment approach and focus on selecting passengers from high-risk regions for clearance to combat transnational drug trafficking activities.

Under the Dangerous Drugs Ordinance, trafficking in a dangerous drug is a serious offence. The maximum penalty upon conviction is a fine of \$5 million and life imprisonment.

Members of the public may report any suspected drug trafficking activities to Customs' 24-hour hotline 2545 6182 or its dedicated crime-reporting email account ([crimereport@customs.gov.hk](mailto:crimereport@customs.gov.hk)).



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## [Additional drop-in box service of Independent Checking Unit](#)

To tie in with the Government's announcement on the extension of special work arrangements for government departments until February 9, a spokesman for the Transport and Housing Bureau said today (February 2) that the Independent Checking Unit (ICU) under the Permanent Secretary for Housing and Transport (Housing) will provide a drop-in box service during the period. Members of the public can place specified forms and supporting documents required to be submitted under the Minor Works Control System, the Mandatory Building Inspection Scheme and the Mandatory Window Inspection Scheme into the drop-in box located at 8/F, Lung Cheung Office Block, Wong Tai Sin, Kowloon, from 10am to 4pm during the period from February 3 to 7 (Monday to Friday). The ICU will issue receipts/acknowledgements of the submissions in due course.

In addition, for emergency reports and general enquiries, people may call 1823 or inform the ICU by email, fax or post.

Email: [icuebt@hd.gov.hk](mailto:icuebt@hd.gov.hk)

Mailing address: 8/F, Lung Cheung Office Block, Wong Tai Sin, Kowloon

Fax: 3162 0069

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## Public hospital daily update on Wuhan-related cases

The following is issued on behalf of the Hospital Authority:

As at noon today (February 2), public hospitals had reported to the Department of Health (DH) the admission of 47 patients (21 male and 26 female, aged 5 to 92) in the past 24 hours who met the reporting criteria of severe respiratory disease associated with a novel infectious agent. Specimens of the patients concerned have been sent to the DH for testing. There are still 88 patients under isolation.

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.

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## Suspected MERS case reported

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health today (February 2) reported a suspected case of Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS), and again urged the public to pay special attention to safety during travel, taking due consideration of the health risks in the places they visit. The case is detailed below:

Sex	Male
Age	30
Affected area involved	Dubai, United Arab Emirates

High-risk exposure	Nil
Hospital	Princess Margaret Hospital
Condition	Stable
MERS-Coronavirus preliminary test result	Negative

"Travellers to the Middle East should avoid going to farms, barns or markets with camels; avoid contact with sick persons and animals, especially camels, birds or poultry; and avoid unnecessary visits to healthcare facilities. We strongly advise travel agents organising tours to the Middle East to abstain from arranging camel rides and activities involving direct contact with camels, which are known risk factors for acquiring MERS Coronavirus (MERS-CoV)," a spokesman for the CHP said.

Locally, the CHP's surveillance with public and private hospitals, with practising doctors and at boundary control points is firmly in place. Inbound travellers and members of the public who recently visited the Middle East and developed relevant symptoms within 14 days will be classified as suspected MERS cases. They will be taken to public hospitals for isolation and management until their specimens test negative for MERS-CoV.

Travellers to affected areas should maintain vigilance, adopt appropriate health precautions and take heed of personal, food and environmental hygiene. The public may visit the MERS pages of the [CHP](#) and its [Travel Health Service](#), MERS statistics in [affected areas](#), the CHP's [Facebook Page](#) and [YouTube Channel](#), and the World Health Organization's [latest news](#) for more information and health advice. Tour leaders and tour guides operating overseas tours are advised to refer to the CHP's [health advice on MERS](#).