

Kowloon West Cluster announces staff member tests preliminarily positive for COVID-19

The following is issued on behalf of the Hospital Authority:

The spokesperson for Kowloon West Cluster made the following announcement today (January 31) regarding a nurse who tested preliminarily positive for COVID-19:

A nurse of North Kwai Chung General Out-patient Clinic tested preliminarily positive when undertaking a regular rapid antigen test yesterday (January 30). Further testing was arranged in Princess Margaret Hospital later, which also confirmed the preliminary positive result. The nurse is now under isolation treatment and is in stable condition.

The hospital infection control team commenced a contact tracing investigation immediately. An operation assistant was identified as a close contact, who required quarantine due to having a conversation with the nurse without a mask in a pantry. The operation assistant has tested negative by a rapid antigen test. Further testing will be arranged to confirm the result.

The nurse's last duty was on January 28. She was responsible for patient counselling on chronic disease management and was equipped with appropriate personal protective equipment at work. The nurse had no contact with patients confirmed with COVID-19 infection and was not involved in any high risk clinical procedures.

The clinic has arranged a thorough cleaning and disinfection. Infection control measures have been reinforced. The clinic will continue to closely monitor the health condition of staff members and communicate with the Centre for Health Protection on the latest situation.

Cluster of Vancomycin Resistant Enterococci and Multi-drug Resistant Acinetobacter cases in Tuen Mun Hospital

The following is issued on behalf of the Hospital Authority:

The spokesperson for Tuen Mun Hospital (TMH) made the following announcement today (January 31):

An 88-year-old male patient in a medical and geriatrics ward of TMH was confirmed to carry Vancomycin Resistant Enterococci (VRE) on January 19.

In accordance with the prevailing infection control guidelines, the hospital has conducted contact tracing for the index patient. Seven more male patients (aged 45 to 90) were found to be VRE carriers but without clinical symptoms. Among the patients, one patient had passed away due to his underlying disease and the other patients are being treated under isolation in the hospital and are in stable condition.

In addition, three male patients (aged 22 to 62) in an orthopaedic and traumatology ward had been confirmed as carriers of Multi-drug Resistant Acinetobacter since January 24. Among them, a 62-year-old patient had passed away earlier due to his underlying disease. The other patients are currently hospitalised under isolation and are in stable condition.

The wards concerned have adopted the following enhanced infection control measures:

1. Enhanced hand hygiene and stringent contact precautions;
2. Enhanced attention to contamination-prone procedures;
3. Enhanced disinfection and cleaning of the concerned ward; and
4. Enhanced patient and environmental screening procedures.

The hospital will continue the enhanced infection control measures and closely monitor the situation of the ward. The cases have been reported to the Hospital Authority Head Office and the Centre for Health Protection for necessary follow-up.

[Appeal for information on missing man in Kowloon City \(with photo\)](#)

Police today (January 31) appealed to the public for information on a man who went missing in Kowloon City.

Tsui Tsz-wai, aged 36, went missing after he was last seen at a caring centre on Sheung Shing Street yesterday (January 30) night. The staff of the caring centre made a report to Police on the same day.

He is about 1.7 metres tall, 80 kilograms in weight and of fat build. He has a round face with yellow complexion and short grey black hair. He was last seen wearing a dark red jacket, black trousers, black shoes and carrying a grey black backpack.

Anyone who knows the whereabouts of the missing man or may have seen him is urged to contact the Regional Missing Persons Unit of Kowloon West on 3661 8036 or 9020 6542 or email to rmpu-kw@police.gov.hk, or contact any police station.



Government maintains existing social distancing measures

The Government announced today (January 31) the gazettal of extension of existing social distancing measures for 14 days from February 4 till February 17.

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In view of the severe epidemic situation, the Chief Executive announced on January 27 the extension of the current set of social distancing measures for two weeks. This arrangement aims to reduce public traffic in the community to prevent a mass outbreak.

"Hong Kong has been continuously recording cases with unknown sources, and samples collected in various districts under sewage surveillance for the COVID-19 virus have tested positive. This shows the existence of silent transmission chains in the community. Although the Chinese New Year is a traditional festival for celebration among relatives and friends, we hope that citizens may stay at home as far as possible and avoid gatherings among families in order to protect public health," a Government spokesman said.

Relevant measures will apply to all catering business and scheduled premises regulated under the Prevention and Control of Disease (Requirements and Directions) (Business and Premises) Regulation (Cap. 599F). Specific

measures (details in Annex 1) include:

(I) Catering business

(1) From 6pm to 4.59am of the subsequent day, save for specific premises (details in Annex 3), a person responsible for carrying on a catering business must cease selling or supplying food or drink for consumption on the premises of the business, and close any premises or part of the premises (whichever is applicable) on which food or drink is sold or supplied by the business for consumption on the premises. The premises concerned may still sell or supply food and/or drink for takeaway services and deliveries. A person responsible for carrying on a catering business is also required to put up a notice at the entrance to the catering premises to remind customers that food or drink should not be consumed in areas adjacent to the catering premises. The maximum numbers of persons per table for catering premises under Types B, C and D Modes of Operation are two, four and six respectively; the maximum numbers of customers per catering premises are 50 per cent, 75 per cent and 100 per cent of the capacity limit of the premises; and the maximum numbers of attendees per banquet are 20, 20 and 240 respectively.

(2) No live performance and dancing activity is allowed in catering premises. Karaoke or mahjong-tin kau activity should also be suspended therein.

(3) Other requirements and restrictions on catering premises will remain in force, including that all customers, when they are away from the table, must not consume food or drink and must wear a mask, and they must scan the "LeaveHomeSafe" venue QR code using the "LeaveHomeSafe" mobile application on their mobile phones/other mobile devices before entering the premises (excluding persons who only order takeaway).

(4) Bars or pubs will be closed.

(II) Scheduled premises

(5) Except for club houses and hotels or guesthouses, all scheduled premises regulated under Cap. 599F as listed below must suspend operation:

- (a) Amusement game centres;
- (b) Bathhouses;
- (c) Fitness centres;
- (d) Places of amusement;
- (e) Places of public entertainment;
- (f) Premises (commonly known as party rooms) that are maintained or intended to be maintained for hire for holding social gatherings;
- (g) Beauty parlours;
- (h) Establishments (commonly known as clubs or nightclubs) that are open late into the night, usually for drinking, and dancing or other entertainment;
- (i) Karaoke establishments;
- (j) Mahjong-tin kau premises;
- (k) Massage establishments;
- (l) Sports premises;
- (m) Swimming pools;

(n) cruise ships (i.e. suspension of "cruise-to-nowhere" itineraries); and
(o) event premises (except for wedding ceremonies or specified business meetings subject to a headcount limit).

(6) For club houses and hotels or guesthouses, managers must comply with the relevant restrictions under Cap. 599F, including closing the facilities therein that are being used or operated as premises mentioned in points (4) and (5) above, and the catering premises therein must comply with all applicable requirements, including that of suspension of dine-in service during dinnertime.

(III) Mask-wearing requirement

(7) The mandatory mask-wearing requirement under the Prevention and Control of Disease (Wearing of Mask) Regulation (Cap. 599I) will be extended for a period of 14 days from February 4 to February 17. A person must wear a mask all the time when the person is boarding or on board a public transport carrier, is entering or present in an MTR paid area, or is entering or present in a specified public place (i.e. all public places, save for outdoor public places in country parks and special areas as defined in section 2 of the Country Parks Ordinance (Cap. 208)).

(8) Under Cap. 599I, if a person does not wear a mask in accordance with the requirement, an authorised person may deny that person from boarding a public transport carrier or entering the area concerned, as well as require that person to wear a mask and disembark from the carrier or leave the said area. A person in contravention of the relevant provision commits an offence and the maximum penalty is a fine at level 3 (\$10,000). In addition, authorised public officers may issue fixed penalty notices to persons who do not wear a mask in accordance with the requirement and such persons may discharge liability for the offence by paying a fixed penalty at \$5,000.

(IV) Cessation of mass events to avoid group gatherings

(9) Unless exempted, the prohibition on group gatherings of more than four persons in public places will continue during the 14-day period from February 4 to February 17. The requirement is also applicable to group gatherings in catering business and scheduled premises regulated under Cap. 599F in which the relevant requirements or restrictions are not complied with.

(10) Any person who participates in a prohibited group gathering; organises a prohibited group gathering; owns, controls or operates the place of such a gathering; and knowingly allows the taking place of such gathering commits an offence under the Prevention and Control of Disease (Prohibition on Group Gathering) Regulation (Cap. 599G). Offenders are liable to a maximum fine of \$25,000 and imprisonment for six months. Persons who participate in a prohibited group gathering may discharge liability for the offence by paying a fixed penalty at \$5,000.

"Boosting the vaccination rate is crucial for Hong Kong to build a barrier against the epidemic, and will create favourable conditions for

relaxing anti-epidemic measures in future. The Government announced earlier that it will substantially expand the 'vaccine bubble', now renamed as the 'vaccine pass', on February 24. Staff members of the relevant premises will be required to have received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine, while the customers and users of premises where they are required to have received vaccination for entry will be required to have received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine. The details will be announced later. We urge citizens to get vaccinated as soon as possible to fight against the new wave of the epidemic together," the spokesman said.

Club-house Subsidy Scheme, Amusement Game Centres Subsidy Scheme and Mahjong/Tin Kau Licence Holder Subsidy Scheme under Anti-epidemic Fund continue to disburse subsidies

The Office of the Licensing Authority (OLA) under the Home Affairs Department continues to receive applications and disburse subsidies to successful applicants under the Club-house Subsidy Scheme, Amusement Game Centres (AGCs) Subsidy Scheme and the Mahjong/Tin Kau (MJ/TK) Licence Holder Subsidy Scheme set up under the fresh round of Anti-epidemic Fund.

The application period for the above three schemes started on January 17. As of today (January 31), the OLA has received a total of 649 applications under the three schemes. Among the applications received, around 550 applications have been approved involving subsidies of around \$31 million.

The three schemes provide a subsidy of \$50,000 to eligible holders of valid Certificates of Compliance (CoC) issued under the Clubs (Safety of Premises) Ordinance (Cap. 376), amusement game centre operators and MJ/TK licence holders. An additional subsidy of \$25,000 will be provided to each permit/licence for CoC holders who also operate karaoke establishments, nightclubs or bars/pubs in their clubhouse premises.

The application deadline for the three schemes is February 17. Eligible operators who have not applied for subsidies should submit an application to the OLA as soon as possible. Details and the application forms for the three subsidy schemes are available on the website of the OLA (www.hadla.gov.hk). For enquiries, please contact the OLA at 3620 3062 (Club-house Subsidy Scheme), 2116 5230 (AGCs Subsidy Scheme) or 2117 2977 (MJ/TK Licence Holder Subsidy Scheme).