

Public hospitals daily update on COVID-19 cases

The following is issued on behalf of the Hospital Authority:

As at 0.00am today (April 26), a total of 1 868 patients who tested positive for COVID-19 are currently being treated in the North Lantau Hospital Hong Kong Infection Control Centre, the Hospital Authority (HA) Infectious Disease Centre, the Treatment Centre for COVID-19 (AWE) and public hospitals. There were 255 patients who have recovered, including 160 patients who have been discharged. In addition, seven patients who passed away in public hospitals were reported.

In the fifth wave of the epidemic, there are 47 135 patients recovered so far, including 46 424 patients who have been discharged. And since early 2020, there are 59 515 patients recovered, including 58 804 patients who have been discharged.

The HA 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.

Government follows up on positive results of sewage surveillance and appeals to residents to undergo virus testing

The Government announced today (April 26) that in order to fight the coronavirus epidemic, the Environmental Protection Department and the Drainage Services Department in collaboration with the cross-disciplinary team of the University of Hong Kong had strengthened the sampling of sewage for virus testing in all districts, and had detected positive results in many areas, indicating that there may be hidden cases in the premises within these areas.

Rapid test

As regards positive sewage testing results with relatively high viral loads in the following areas, the respective District Offices will commence distributing about 210 000 sets of the COVID-19 rapid antigen test (RAT) kits to residents, cleaning workers and property management staff working in the

following areas for them to take the test on their own, in order to help identify infected persons:

- Yau Tsim Mong District – Parc Palais and King's Park Villa
- North District – Royal Green, Glorious Peak, 8 Royal Green, Sheung Shui Centre, Sunningdale Garden, Sheung Shui Town Centre, Woodland Crest, Regentville, Noble Hill, Good View New Village, Union Plaza, Fanling Town Center, Fanling Centre, Grand Regentville, Green Code, Metropolis Plaza, Belair Monte and Lung Fung Garden
- Kwai Tsing District – New Kwai Fong Gardens, Kwai Fong Terrace, Kwai Chung Plaza, residential premises around Shing Fong Street, Shek Yam Road and Nos. 402 to 482 Castle Peak Road Kwai Chung (See Annex)

Members of the public may refer to (www.coronavirus.gov.hk/rat/eng/rat.html) for enquiries relating to the use of the RAT kits.

When using an RAT kit, please pay attention to and follow the instructions from the manufacturer to perform the test and read the result properly. It is advisable to record the displayed result by taking a photo immediately after reading. Users should wash their hands before and after performing the tests, and avoid placing non-essential items within the specimen collection area. After completing the test, wrap and seal all components of the test kit carefully and dispose properly. If the household environment is contaminated during the specimen collecting process, disinfection should be conducted with 1 in 49 diluted bleach solution or 70 per cent alcohol.

People who obtained a positive result through an RAT for the first time can report via the online platform "Declaration System for individuals tested positive for COVID-19 using Rapid Antigen Test" (www.chp.gov.hk/ratp/). If individuals encounter difficulties using the online platform, they can call the automated system at 183 6119 to register their identification document and telephone number. The Centre for Health Protection of the Department of Health will contact the relevant person later to finish the report procedure.

Government gazettes compulsory testing notice

The Government exercises the power under the Prevention and Control of Disease (Compulsory Testing for Certain Persons) Regulation (Cap. 599J) and publishes in the Gazette a compulsory testing notice, which requires any person who had been present at 40 specified places during the specified

period (persons subject to compulsory testing) to undergo a COVID-19 nucleic acid test.

In view of a number of cases testing positive, 40 specified places are included in the compulsory testing notice. The Government strongly reminds members of the public to strictly follow the compulsory testing requirements and undergo testing on time as required. Mobile specimen collection stations have been set up by the Government in different districts to facilitate testing to be conducted in compliance with the compulsory testing notice. The above compulsory testing requirement applies to those who have completed a COVID-19 vaccination course as well.

Persons who have tested positive in the past three months (including positive cases tested either by nucleic acid tests recorded by the Department of Health (DH) or by rapid antigen tests (RATs) that have been self-declared to the DH) do not need to undergo compulsory testing. For those who are subject to compulsory testing (save for those who have declared their positive RAT results as mentioned above), they must undergo nucleic acid tests in accordance with relevant compulsory testing notices and cannot use RATs to fulfil the requirement of such notices. In other words, a negative RAT result cannot be deemed as fulfilling the compulsory testing requirement. Furthermore, unless a person subject to compulsory testing has obtained a medical certificate proving that he or she is unfit to undergo testing using a sample taken through combined nasal and throat swabs because of health reasons, the person cannot provide a deep throat saliva sample to fulfil the compulsory testing requirement.

Details of the compulsory testing notice are available on the Centre for Health Protection (CHP)'s website via the following link: www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/ctn_20220426.pdf.

If any persons test positive under compulsory testing, such positive cases will be handled in the same manner as in those identified through other nucleic acid tests or self-declared through RATs. Their isolation arrangements (as well as the quarantine arrangements of their household members) are no different from other positive cases.

Persons subject to compulsory testing in accordance with a compulsory testing notice must go to any of the mobile specimen collection stations, community testing centres (CTCs) or recognised local medical testing institutions to undergo professional swab sampling in fulfilling the requirements for compulsory testing. Young children may continue to undergo the test using a stool specimen.

The Comirnaty and CoronaVac vaccines are highly effective in preventing severe cases and deaths from COVID-19. They can provide protection to those vaccinated to prevent serious complications and even death after infection. The Government appeals to persons who are not yet vaccinated to get vaccinated without delay. The Government is working towards the goal of boosting the vaccination rates of children, teenagers and the elderly by the end of April so that they can be protected by the vaccines as early as possible. Furthermore, the Scientific Committee on Vaccine Preventable

Diseases and the Scientific Committee on Emerging and Zoonotic Diseases under the CHP of the DH has updated the consensus interim recommendations, and persons aged 60 or above who have taken three doses of vaccine are recommended to receive an additional dose (i.e. fourth dose) of either Comirnaty vaccine or CoronaVac vaccine at least three months after their last dose. Members of the public who are eligible should get the fourth dose as early as possible for better protection.

CTCs provide testing services for the public. Booking and walk-in services are available. Members of the public only need to provide simple personal information on the 24-hour booking system (www.communitytest.gov.hk/en). The system shows the booking status of the centres for the coming two weeks to facilitate the public's planning and selection of a suitable testing centre and a time slot for testing. The testing centres will accord priority to serve individuals with advance bookings. As of 6pm today (April 26), there was around 97 per cent availability for booking places for the coming two weeks. Members of the public may call the testing centres for enquiries on the availability of bookings or walk-in quotas before visiting the centres.

The Government will set up or reopen the mobile specimen collection stations at King Hin Court in Diamond Hill and Hung Fuk Estate in Hung Shui Kiu tomorrow (April 27), and extend the service period of the mobile specimen collection station at Chuk Yuen North Estate in Wong Tai Sin to April 28 (Thursday). Separately, ticketing machines have been installed in a number of service points for on-site ticket arrangement. Members of the public who have obtained a ticket can visit the CTC website (www.communitytest.gov.hk/en) to check the real-time queueing ticket status. Booking service is also provided for some large-scale mobile specimen collection stations, and members of the public may use the 24-hour booking system (www.communitytest.gov.hk/en) to reserve a suitable time slot for testing.

Other than persons subject to compulsory testing, all members of the public may conduct free testing at CTCs or mobile specimen collection stations (if the service scope is applicable). The opening dates and operating hours of the mobile specimen collection stations are stated in the Annex.

Persons subject to compulsory testing may choose to undergo testing via the following routes:

- (a) For tests which require using a sample taken through combined nasal and throat swabs
1. To visit any of the mobile specimen collection stations (see the list and target groups (if applicable) at www.coronavirus.gov.hk/eng/early-testing.html) for testing;
 2. To attend any of the CTCs (see the list at www.communitytest.gov.hk/en);
 3. To self-arrange testing provided by private laboratories which are recognised by the DH and can issue SMS notifications in respect of test results (see the list at www.coronavirus.gov.hk/pdf/List_of_recognised_laboratories RTPCR.pdf), and

the relevant sample must be taken through combined nasal and throat swabs; or
4. To use a specimen bottle distributed to the relevant specified premises by the CHP (if applicable), and return the specimen bottle with the stool sample collected as per relevant guidelines.

(b) For persons holding a medical certificate issued by a registered medical practitioner proving that they are unfit to undergo testing using a sample taken through combined nasal and throat swabs because of health reasons

1. To obtain a deep throat saliva specimen collection pack from post offices, vending machines set up at MTR stations or designated general out-patient clinics (GOPCs) of the Hospital Authority and return the specimen to one of the designated specimen collection points (see the distribution points and times, and the specimen collection points and times,

at www.coronavirus.gov.hk/eng/early-testing.html);

2. To undergo testing at any of the GOPCs of the Hospital Authority as instructed by a medical professional of the Hospital Authority; or

3. To self-arrange testing provided by private laboratories which are recognised by the DH and can issue SMS notifications in respect of test results.

A spokesman for the Food and Health Bureau cautioned that testing received at the Accident and Emergency Departments of the Hospital Authority, or testing provided by private laboratories which cannot issue SMS notifications in respect of test results, does not comply with the requirements of the aforementioned compulsory testing notice.

"If persons subject to compulsory testing have symptoms, they should seek medical attention immediately and undergo testing as instructed by a medical professional. They should not attend the mobile specimen collection stations or the CTCs."

Persons subject to compulsory testing must keep the SMS notifications containing the result of the test and the relevant medical certificate (if applicable) for checking by a law enforcement officer when the officer requires the persons to provide information about their undergoing the specified test.

Any enquiries on compulsory testing arrangements may be addressed to the hotline at 6275 6901, which operates daily from 9am to 6pm.

The Government will continue to trace possibly infected persons who had been to relevant premises, and seriously verify whether they had complied with the testing notices. Any person who fails to comply with the testing notices commits an offence and the maximum penalty upon conviction is a fine at level 4 (\$25,000) and imprisonment for six months. The fixed penalty for discharging the liability is \$10,000. The person may also be issued with a compulsory testing order requiring him or her to undergo testing within a specified time frame. Any person in breach of the compulsory testing order would be liable to a fine at level 5 (\$50,000) and imprisonment for six months.

The spokesman said, "The Government urges all individuals who are in

doubt about their own health conditions, or individuals with infection risks (such as individuals who visited places with epidemic outbreaks or had contact with cases tested positive), to undergo testing promptly for early identification of infected persons."

[SCED highlights Hong Kong's business advantages and investment opportunities to Indian business community \(with photos\)](#)

The Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development, Mr Edward Yau, addressed more than 100 business leaders and senior executives from the Indian business community joining a webinar today (April 26), highlighting Hong Kong's various institutional strengths and policies as well as its boundless business and investment opportunities for Indian companies as a base for Asia-Pacific operations and a gateway to the Mainland of China.

In the webinar entitled "Explore Business and Investment Opportunities in Hong Kong and Mainland China", Mr Yau started by pointing out the close bonds between Hong Kong and India. In 2021, Hong Kong was India's fourth largest trading partner while India was Hong Kong's eighth largest trading partner.

He pointed out that Hong Kong is the world's freest economy and a regional hub connecting the markets of the Mainland of China, India and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, making Hong Kong an ideal place for doing business and investment.

He said that Hong Kong and India share the same vision in innovation and technology (I&T) development. While India is renowned for its strength in I&T, he expressed the belief that the increase in the number of start-ups in I&T in Hong Kong will provide fertile ground for the mutual development of I&T.

Mr Yau added that the National 14th Five-Year Plan has given Hong Kong a major role in a number of areas, including trade, finance, aviation, logistics, intellectual property trading, and arts and cultural exchanges. Hong Kong as the most international city in the region will provide India with a lot of business and investment opportunities in Hong Kong and the Mainland of China.

The webinar included a lively panel discussion by industry players as they spoke on their experiences and shared perspectives on how their

businesses had benefited from Hong Kong's advantages. The panel speakers included the Consultant for South Asia of the Hong Kong Trade Development Council, Mr Rajesh Bhagat; the Country Head and Chief Executive Officer of State Bank of India, Hong Kong, Mr Shrirang Ketkar; Managing Committee member of the Federation of Indian Export Organisations Mr Mahesh Keyal; and the Managing Partner of Chandrawat & Partners, Mr Surendra Chandrawat.

The webinar received a positive response from Indian companies from a wide array of sectors, from manufacturing and consulting to education and I&T. A subsequent question-and-answer session was moderated by the Director-General of Investment Promotion at Invest Hong Kong (InvestHK), Mr Stephen Phillips.

The webinar was co-organised by the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Singapore and InvestHK. It was supported by the Hong Kong Trade Development Council, the Federation of Indian Export Organisations, the Confederation of Indian Industry and the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry.



[CHP investigates 86 confirmed and 83 asymptomatic additional SARS-CoV-2 virus cases with 36 cases pending status by nucleic acid tests as well as 142 cases tested positive by rapid antigen tests \(with photo\)](#)

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health today (April 26) announced the latest epidemic situation of COVID-19. As of 0.00am, April 26, the CHP was investigating 205 additional cases that tested positive for the SARS-CoV-2 virus by nucleic acid tests (86 confirmed cases, 83

asymptomatic cases and 36 cases with pending case status) in the past 24 hours. Separately, 142 additional positive cases through rapid antigen tests (RAT) (78 symptomatic cases and 64 asymptomatic cases) were reported. Hong Kong has recorded a total of 757 727 and 444 911 cases that have tested positive by nucleic acid tests and RATs respectively for the SARS-CoV-2 virus so far.

The aforementioned newly reported cases consist of 12 imported cases (10 cases and two cases tested positive by nucleic acid tests and RAT respectively). The CHP is continuing with epidemiological investigations on the cases. Please refer to the "COVID-19 Thematic Website" (www.coronavirus.gov.hk) for more information.

In addition, as of 0.00am, April 26, a total of 9 061 death cases that had tested positive for the SARS-CoV-2 virus during the fifth wave (since December 31, 2021) were recorded, with 8 992 and 66 deaths reported from the Hospital Authority and public mortuaries respectively as well as three deaths reported from the Chinese University of Hong Kong Medical Centre. Hong Kong has so far recorded a total of 9 274 death cases that have tested positive for the SARS-CoV-2 virus.

Furthermore, among the earlier cases by nucleic acid tests reported, there were cases (including pending cases) changed to confirmed, asymptomatic or re-positive cases. As at yesterday (April 25), the total number of confirmed cases was 329 270, while the figures for asymptomatic cases, re-positive cases and pending/unknown cases recorded since January 1 were 197 010, 10 and 231 232 respectively.

The spokesman for the CHP stressed that as the local situation of COVID-19 infection is still severe, the CHP strongly appeals to the community to continue to comply with social distancing measures, avoid going out and refrain from participating in unnecessary or crowded activities or gatherings (particularly religious or cross-family activities and gatherings). This would lower the risk of infection and prevent the virus from spreading in the community.

The spokesman reminded that COVID-19 vaccines are highly effective in preventing severe cases and deaths from the SARS-CoV-2 virus. They can provide effective protection to those vaccinated in preventing serious complications and even death after infection. People who have yet to receive vaccination, especially senior citizens, chronic patients and other immunocompromised persons who face a higher chance of death after COVID-19 infection, should get vaccinated as early as possible for self-protection and to reduce the risk of falling seriously ill and death should they get infected. Meanwhile, a person who gets COVID-19 and influenza at the same time may be more seriously ill and would have a higher risk of death. Influenza vaccination may reduce the likelihood of hospitalisation and the length of stay. In addition, seasonal influenza vaccination is recommended for all persons aged 6 months or above except those with known contraindications. Persons at higher risk of getting influenza and its complications, including the elderly and children, should receive seasonal influenza vaccination early. Please see details of the vaccination schemes on

the CHP's website (www.chp.gov.hk/en/features/17980.html).

