

Public hospitals daily update on COVID-19 cases

The following is issued on behalf of the Hospital Authority:

As at 9am today (April 25), 14 COVID-19 confirmed patients were discharged from hospital in the last 24 hours. So far, a total of 11 354 patients with confirmed or probable infection have been discharged.

At present, there are 653 negative pressure rooms in public hospitals with 1 196 negative pressure beds activated. A total of 137 confirmed patients are currently hospitalised in 17 public hospitals and the North Lantau Hospital Hong Kong Infection Control Centre, among which three patients are in critical condition, two are in serious condition and the remaining 132 patients are in stable condition.

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.

Details of the above-mentioned patients are as follows:

Patient condition	Case numbers
Discharged	4940, 11469, 11546, 11548, 11560, 11580, 11599, 11602, 11617, 11625, 11626, 11690, 11701, 11702
Critical	6794, 8078, 9907
Serious	10358, 11654

Hospital Authority alerts public to fraudulent phone calls purporting to be made by HA

The following is issued on behalf of the Hospital Authority:

The Hospital Authority (HA) today (April 25) appealed to members of the public to stay alert to fraudulent phone calls purporting to be made by the HA. The fraudulent phone calls were in pre-recorded format and instructed the called party to go for quarantine.

"The HA will not contact members of the public through pre-recorded phone call for quarantine and will not request the public to provide sensitive personal information in the phone call," the HA spokesperson clarified.

The HA has reported the matter to the Police. The spokesperson reminded the public not to follow the caller's instructions if they receive suspected fraudulent calls and should report the matter to the Police.

CHP investigates six additional confirmed cases of COVID-19

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health (DH) announced that as of 0.00am, April 25, the CHP was investigating six additional confirmed cases of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), taking the number of cases to 11 737 in Hong Kong so far (comprising 11 736 confirmed cases and one probable case).

Among the newly reported cases announced, four are imported cases, while the other two cases are epidemiologically linked with a local case.

A total of 162 cases have been recorded in the past 14 days (April 11 to 24), including 37 local cases (including 1 possibly local) of which 17 are from unknown sources.

The CHP's epidemiological investigations and relevant contact tracing on the confirmed cases are ongoing. For case details and contact tracing information, please see the Annex or the list of buildings with confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the past 14 days and the latest local situation of COVID-19 available on the website "COVID-19 Thematic Website" (www.coronavirus.gov.hk).

Meanwhile, the CHP reminded those who had visited specified venues under the Prevention and Control of Disease (Compulsory Testing for Certain Persons) Regulation (Cap. 599J) to receive COVID-19 nucleic acid testing according to the compulsory testing notice. The Regulation also requires all household members of close contacts of confirmed cases to undergo a COVID-19 nucleic acid test within a specified period according to compulsory testing notices published in the Gazette. The public are also urged to seek medical attention early if symptoms develop and undergo testing as soon as possible.

The Government has launched the COVID-19 Vaccination Programme. Members of the public are encouraged to get vaccinated. Details of the programme can be found at the designated website (www.covidvaccine.gov.hk).

The CHP called on members of the public to avoid going out, having social contact and dining out. They should put on a surgical mask and maintain stringent hand hygiene when they need to go out. The CHP strongly urged the elderly to stay home as far as possible and avoid going out. They should consider asking their family and friends to help with everyday tasks such as shopping for basic necessities.

The spokesman said, "Given that the situation of COVID-19 infection remains severe and that there is a continuous increase in the number of cases reported around the world, members of the public are strongly urged to avoid all non-essential travel outside Hong Kong.

"The CHP also strongly urges 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. On a 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.

"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."

Moreover, the Government has launched the website "COVID-19 Thematic Website" (www.coronavirus.gov.hk) for announcing the latest updates on various news on COVID-19 infection and health advice to help the public understand the latest updates. Members of the public may also gain access to information via the COVID-19 WhatsApp Helpline launched by the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer. Simply by saving 9617 1823 in their phone contacts or clicking the link wa.me/85296171823?text=hi, they will be able to obtain information on COVID-19 as well as the "StayHomeSafe" mobile app and wristband via WhatsApp.

To prevent pneumonia and respiratory tract infections, 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 performing 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 doorknobs, 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 litre of water into each drain outlet (U-trap) 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.
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Liquor Licensing Board to meet on Tuesday

The following is issued on behalf of the Liquor Licensing Board:

The Liquor Licensing Board (LLB) will meet on Tuesday (April 27) to consider four applications for new issue and renewal of liquor licences.

The applications are (not in order of discussion):

Hong Kong:

MISS DOUGH & BREW COFFEE BAR and TM' S in Sai Ying Pun
KATSUMOTO SANDO BAR & RESTAURANT in Central
CRAZY HORSE CLUB in Wan Chai

The board will also consider revocation of the liquor licence of ESPRESSO MARTINI in Sai Ying Pun.

The meeting will be held at 9.45am in the conference room, Room 102, 1/F, 258 Queen's Road East, Wan Chai. In response to the latest developments of COVID-19, to avoid the gathering of people in an enclosed environment and to safeguard the health of all participants, only limited public seats will be available on a first-come, first-served basis for all open hearings of the LLB in the interim.

[Youths find path to city forestry](#)

The Urban Forestry Support Fund offers study sponsorships and training allowances through two schemes to encourage youngsters to join the arboriculture and horticulture industry.

News.gov.hk spoke to the schemes' beneficiaries and the Development Bureau's Tree Management Office Head to learn how the schemes boost youth participation in the industry and uplift professional standards.

The story is available at www.news.gov.hk/eng/feature today (April 25) in text and video format.