

CHP investigates 22 additional confirmed cases of COVID-19

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health (DH) announced that as of 0.00am, March 11, the CHP was investigating 22 additional confirmed cases of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), taking the number of cases to 11 151 in Hong Kong so far (comprising 11 150 confirmed cases and one probable case).

Among the newly reported cases announced, three are imported cases.

A total of 215 cases have been recorded in the past 14 days (February 25 to March 10), including 161 local cases of which 54 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).

In view of the latest epidemic developments in the Mainland, the previous arrangement to provide specimen collection containers to inbound travellers arriving via land boundary control points who have been to Heilongjiang Province and Jilin Province in the past 14 days will be cancelled from tomorrow (March 12). These travellers, if they are not exempted persons, are subject to compulsory quarantine for 14 days at a designated place (home or other accommodation) upon arrival in Hong Kong. The arrangement of distributing specimen collection containers to inbound travellers who have been to Hebei Province in the past 14 days arriving via land boundary control points, which has come into effect earlier, remains unchanged.

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 public are also urged to seek medical attention early if symptoms develop.

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, regularly pour water into drain outlets (U-traps) and cover all floor drain outlets when they are not in use. 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;
- Cover all floor drain outlets when they are not in use;
- 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.

Government Flying Service fully supports National People's Congress' Decision on improving electoral system of HKSAR

The 13th National People's Congress (NPC) has passed the Decision on improving the electoral system of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) today (March 11).

The Controller of the Government Flying Service (GFS), Captain Wu Wai-hung, fully supports the decision made by the NPC on implementing the principle of "patriots administering Hong Kong" and improving the electoral system of the HKSAR for the interest of its citizens.

To ensure the robust and successful implementation of "one country, two systems", "patriots administering Hong Kong" is an unfaltering principle and the linchpin in maintaining Hong Kong's long-term prosperity and stability as well as its healthy development. Captain Wu will lead the GFS to support the HKSAR Government's lawful administration and the Government's mission in safeguarding the national sovereignty, security, and development interests, achieving the long-term prosperity and stability of Hong Kong.

Director of Fire Services fully supports Decision of National People's Congress on improving electoral system of HKSAR

In response to the National People's Congress (NPC)'s passage of the Decision on improving the electoral system of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) at the fourth session of the 13th NPC, the

Director of Fire Services, Mr Joseph Leung, today (March 11) said that, as a member of the HKSAR disciplinary forces, the Fire Services Department (FSD) fully supports the NPC's Decision to improve the electoral system of the HKSAR to fully implement the principle of "patriots administering Hong Kong", thereby safeguarding the fundamental interests of the nation and the long-term prosperity and stability of Hong Kong.

"I believe that by implementing the improvement of the HKSAR electoral system and the principle of 'patriots administering Hong Kong' in an effective and steadfast manner, national sovereignty, safety and development interests can be effectively safeguarded, and the principle of 'one country, two systems' can also be accurately implemented, maintaining the long-term prosperity, stability and safety of Hong Kong," Mr Leung said.

"The FSD will continue to hold fast to our posts, stand united to fully support the HKSAR Government's governance and fulfil our statutory duties, and strive to protect the lives and property of the public, making Hong Kong a safe place to live and work."

Commissioner of Police fully supports "Decision on improving the electoral system of the HKSAR"

The fourth session of the 13th National People's Congress (NPC) today (March 11) passed the decision on improving the electoral system of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (Decision).

The Commissioner of Police, Mr Tang Ping-keung, expressed his full support for the Decision of the NPC. He said that the Decision to improve the electoral system to implement "patriots administering Hong Kong" is important in ensuring the social stability and development of Hong Kong.

The opposition to the proposed legislative amendments of the Fugitive Offenders Bill in 2019 led to a series of illegal violent incidents. Some lawbreakers advocated "Hong Kong independence" and "self-determination" which undermine national security. As a professional law enforcement department, the Police Force all along perform statutory duties to prevent and combat all acts and activities that endanger national security, including acts of secession, subversion of state power, organising and carrying out terrorist activities, and collusion with foreign forces.

Full implementation of the fundamental principle in the Decision is effective in safeguarding national sovereignty and security, which is beneficial to the long-term stability and safety of Hong Kong.

The Police Force continue to remain dedicated and committed to deliver their service faithfully according to the law. The Force will continue to work with other disciplinary forces to maintain social order and fully co-operate with the HKSAR Government in implementing the Decision.

Commissioner of Correctional Services fully supports Decision of NPC on improving electoral system of HKSAR

The Commissioner of Correctional Services, Mr Woo Ying-ming, has pledged full support for the Decision made by the 13th National People's Congress (NPC) on "improving the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR)'s electoral system".

The electoral system of the HKSAR is directly related to national security, and hence the principle of "patriots administering Hong Kong" must be implemented in the pursuit of "one country, two systems", "Hong Kong people administering Hong Kong" and a high degree of autonomy, so as to safeguard national sovereignty and ensure the long-term prosperity of Hong Kong.

Only under the principle of "patriots administering Hong Kong" can the constitutional order as set out in the Constitution and the Basic Law be effectively safeguarded and the long-term prosperity of Hong Kong be ensured. In recent years, anti-China disruptors have persistently promoted negative sentiment and supported violence to break the law, and some among them were brainwashed to undermine the rule of law and ended up in prisons. Improving the electoral system can effectively deter anti-China disruptors from utilising an electoral platform to take control of a council to achieve "mutual destruction" in Hong Kong and cause malfunctioning of a council, which, in turn, could result in obstructing the work of the Government in accordance with the law and jeopardising the overall law and order situation in Hong Kong.

The CSD, as the gatekeeper of the last element of the criminal justice system, pledges to ensure prison stability and prevent anyone in prison from organising or nurturing power to oppose the Central Authorities and stir up disorder in society, in an effort to safeguard national sovereignty and ensure the steady implementation of "one country, two systems".