

CHP investigates eight 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 6, the CHP was investigating eight additional confirmed cases of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), taking the number of cases to 11 075 in Hong Kong so far (comprising 11 074 confirmed cases and one probable case).

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

A total of 233 cases have been recorded in the past 14 days (February 20 to March 5), including 193 local cases of which 64 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 Shanghai in the past 14 days will be cancelled from today (March 6). 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 Heilongjiang Province, Hebei Province and Jilin 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.
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DH received report of suspected serious adverse event following COVID-19 vaccination

The Department of Health (DH) today (March 6) received a report from the Hospital Authority (HA) regarding a suspected serious adverse event following COVID-19 vaccination. According to the information provided by the HA, the case involved a 55-year-old woman who had history of chronic illnesses, suffered from an acute stroke on March 5. She was admitted to Caritas Medical Centre for treatment and was later transferred to Kwong Wah Hospital for further treatment. Subsequently, she had cardiac arrest and after resuscitation she passed away early this morning. According to information provided by the deceased's family member, she had received COVID-19 vaccination at Kwun Chung Sports Centre Community Vaccination Centre in Jordan on March 2.

The DH has immediately contacted the HA upon the notification to obtain further information on the incident for conducting investigation and assessment. The DH will provide the case to the Expert Committee on Clinical Events Assessment Following COVID-19 Immunisation for conducting causality assessment as soon as possible, and the assessment result will be released in a timely manner.

Queen Elizabeth Hospital announces passing away of COVID-19 patient

The following is issued on behalf of the Hospital Authority:

The spokesperson for Queen Elizabeth Hospital (QEH) today (March 6) announced that a patient confirmed with COVID-19 passed away yesterday.

An 80-year-old female patient (case number: 10379) with chronic diseases was referred to QEH by the Centre for Health Protection on January 29 due to confirmed with COVID-19 infection. She was admitted to isolation ward for

treatment. Her condition continued to deteriorate and she eventually succumbed at 9.55pm last night.

The hospital is saddened about the passing away of the patient and would offer necessary assistance to her family.

Including the above patient, 196 COVID-19 confirmed patients have passed away in public hospitals so far.

Transcript of remarks by SFH at media session

Following is the transcript of remarks made by the Secretary for Food and Health, Professor Sophia Chan, after attending a radio programme today (March 6):

Reporter: We see the fall in the number of people signing up to get vaccinated. Do you think it is related to the incident of the death of 63-year-old man? How would you convince people to take COVID-19 jab given this incident? Would you recommend them to wait a little bit?

Secretary for Food and Health: Thank you for your question. First of all, I think the Expert Committee (Expert Committee on Clinical Events Assessment Following COVID-19 Immunisation) has already announced that they have so far not found any direct causality between the current incident and the vaccination. It will be under the inquest by the Coroner's Court. Therefore, after the report has come out, the Committee will meet again to review the report and give more information. Obviously, all two vaccines that the Government have authorised for emergency use are safe, efficacious and also of good quality.

With this incident, we also noticed the number of booking has lowered down a little bit. There are still bookings every day. We understand the situation. Perhaps the public would like to understand their own situation a little bit more. We also appeal to the public that if they are uncertain about their own situation whether they have serious chronic illness or uncontrolled chronic illness, they can actually consult their family doctors to understand more before they make booking for vaccination. As far as the Government is concerned, we will continue to monitor the overall situation. If there is an incident, the healthcare professionals will notify the Department of Health. In the centres, we will continue to monitor the situation and all people who have been vaccinated would have to wait at the centres for observation for 30 minutes before they can leave. If they have any adverse reactions during that time, there are healthcare professionals on site who will deal with the situation. We will continue to provide health education or information about the vaccines so that the people would gain

confidence and understand more about whether or not they should be vaccinated. Of course, as far as the public health is concerned, the more people get vaccinated, the better it is in terms of control of the epidemic as well as people's livelihood to be resumed as soon as possible.

(Please also refer to the Chinese portion of the transcript.)

Inter-departmental help desk stood down

Attention duty announcers of radio and TV stations:

Please broadcast the following as soon as possible and repeat it at suitable intervals:

The inter-departmental help desk set up by the Yau Tsim Mong District Office at Lobby of Central Stack, Kwong Wah Hospital has now been stood down. The first and third floor of Henry G. Leong Yaumatei Community Centre, located at 60 Public Square Street, Yau Ma Tei, will continue to open for affected residents to take shelter.