

CHP investigates 28 additional confirmed cases of COVID-19

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health (DH) announced that as of 0.00am, January 30, the CHP was investigating 28 additional confirmed cases of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), taking the number of cases to 10 400 in Hong Kong so far (comprising 10 399 confirmed cases and one probable case).

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

A total of 919 cases have been recorded in the past 14 days (January 16 to 29), including 877 local cases of which 347 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 public are also urged to seek medical attention early if symptoms develop.

Regarding the severe epidemic situation, 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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Sick person in custody dies in public hospital

A sick 68-year-old male person in custody at Stanley Prison died in a public hospital today (January 30).

The person in custody suffered from liver cancer and hypertension. He required continuous medical care and follow-up at the institution hospital and a public hospital. This morning, he was sent to a public hospital for treatment due to physical discomfort. During hospitalisation, his condition deteriorated and he was certified dead at 1.07pm today.

The case has been reported to the Police. A death inquest will be held by the Coroner's Court.

The person in custody was sentenced to imprisonment for the offence of trafficking in a dangerous drug in March 2020.

DSW expresses deep sorrow over passing of DDSW(S)

The Director of Social Welfare, Mr Gordon Leung, today (January 30) said he was deeply saddened to learn of the passing of the Deputy Director of Social Welfare (Services), Mr Lam Ka-tai. Mr Lam was found unconscious at the office and was sent to the hospital on January 20. He passed away today.

"On behalf of the Social Welfare Department (SWD), I would like to extend my deepest condolences to his family. The department will make every effort to provide assistance for the family as appropriate," Mr Leung said.

Mr Lam joined the SWD in July 1987. He served as the Assistant Director (Subventions) from September 2010 to June 2012 and the Assistant Director (Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services) from June 2012 to September 2013. He has been serving as the Deputy Director of Social Welfare (Services) since September 2013.

SCS deeply saddened by passing of DDSW Mr Lam Ka-tai

â€‹The Secretary for the Civil Service, Mr Patrick Nip, today (January 30) expressed deep sorrow over the passing of the Deputy Director of Social Welfare, Mr Lam Ka-tai.

Mr Nip said, "I have known Mr Lam for years and worked with him closely when I was the Director of Social Welfare. Mr Lam was a conscientious and dedicated colleague who showed empathy and had served with strong commitment in his more than 30 years of public service. He would always be a role model for civil servants. On behalf of the civil service, I offer my deepest condolences to his family.

"The Civil Service Bureau will continue to liaise with the Social Welfare Department and make every effort to help the family during this sad and difficult period."

SLW expresses sorrow over death of DDSW Mr Lam Ka-tai

â€‹The Secretary for Labour and Welfare, Dr Law Chi-kwong, was deeply grieved today (January 30) to learn of the passing of the Deputy Director of Social Welfare (Services), Mr Lam Ka-tai.

Dr Law said, "In serving the Social Welfare Department (SWD) for 33 years, his strong commitment to serve, hard work and quality performance earned respect from colleagues across disciplines as well as stakeholders, organisations and front-line personnel in the welfare sector. Regardless of positions, he was a good listener and communicator. He led his teams in implementing people-oriented welfare initiatives with a mission to help those in need and he fully demonstrated the professionalism of a social worker."

He added, "I knew K T personally for nearly 30 years, and have been working closely with him in different positions. Colleagues in the Labour and Welfare Bureau are all saddened by his passing, which is a great loss to our team. On behalf of our bureau, I would like to extend my deepest condolences to his family. The SWD will make every effort to provide assistance for the family as appropriate."