

Public hospitals daily update on COVID-19 cases and Queen Mary Hospital deceased patient

The following is issued on behalf of the Hospital Authority:

As at 9am today (January 16), 40 COVID-19 confirmed patients were discharged from hospital in the last 24 hours. So far, a total of 8 724 patients with confirmed or probable infection have been discharged.

At present, there are 678 negative pressure rooms in public hospitals with 1 224 negative pressure beds activated. A total of 536 confirmed patients are currently hospitalised in 24 public hospitals and a community treatment facility, among which 42 patients are in critical condition, 28 are in serious condition and the remaining 466 patients are in stable condition. Moreover, a 73-year-old male patient (case number: 6920) confirmed with COVID-19 infection was admitted to United Christian Hospital on December 6 last year and was transferred to the Queen Mary Hospital on December 8. His condition continued to deteriorate and succumbed at 6.42am yesterday (January 15) morning. Including this patient, 158 COVID-19 patients have passed away in public hospitals so far.

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	7581, 7713, 8113, 8434, 8646, 8656, 8728, 8736, 8748, 8753, 8757, 8837, 8887, 8902, 8907, 8963, 8965, 8984, 8987, 9000, 9024, 9041, 9042, 9044, 9076, 9088, 9120, 9122, 9132, 9137, 9149, 9158, 9213, 9221, 9231, 9235, 9244, 9338, 9385, 9391
Critical	1989, 3496, 5409, 5511, 5735, 5754, 6125, 6232, 6255, 6444, 6547, 6607, 6754, 6794, 6913, 7021, 7123, 7259, 7323, 7424, 7680, 8018, 8078, 8126, 8195, 8323, 8384, 8449, 8452, 8818, 8820, 8900, 8937, 9030, 9031, 9049, 9060, 9062, 9267, 9311, 9324, 9438
Serious	5739, 5990, 6386, 6543, 6824, 6850, 7076, 7208, 7305, 7468, 7653, 7964, 8443, 8558, 8819, 8832, 8931, 9040, 9045, 9055, 9066, 9124, 9133, 9135, 9166, 9185, 9240, 9284

CHP investigates 50 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 16, the CHP was investigating 50 additional confirmed cases of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), taking the number of cases to 9 503 in Hong Kong so far (comprising 9 502 confirmed cases and one probable case).

Among the newly reported cases announced, one is imported case.

A total of 564 cases have been recorded in the past 14 days (January 2 to 15), including 523 local cases of which 164 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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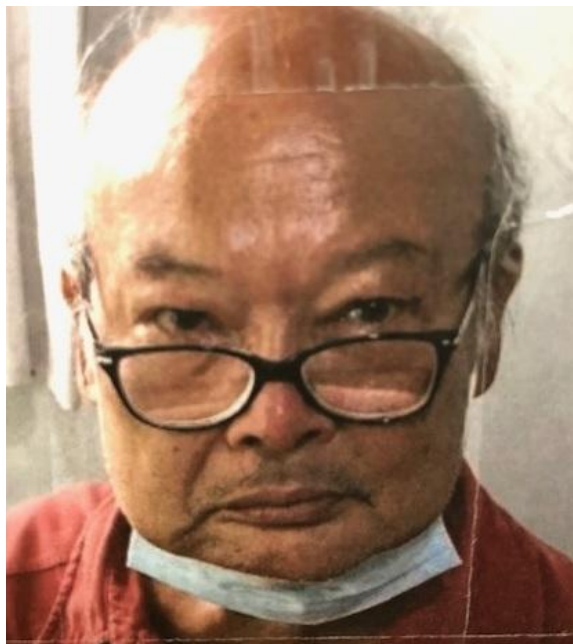
Appeal for information on missing man in Kwai Chung (with photo)

Police today (January 16) appealed to the public for information on a man who went missing in Kwai Chung.

Leung Bing-ho, aged 76, went missing after he left his residence in Tai Wo Hau Estate on January 14 afternoon. His family made a report to Police yesterday (January 15).

He is about 1.7 metres tall, 80 kilograms in weight and of fat build. He has a round face with yellow complexion and bald head. He was last seen wearing a black and white checkered shirt, green long-sleeved coat, green trousers, and black sneakers.

Anyone who knows the whereabouts of the missing man or may have seen him is urged to contact the Regional Missing Person Unit of New Territories South on 3661 1176 or 5443 5193, or email to rmpu-nts-2@police.gov.hk, or contact any police station.



HKSAR Government expresses utmost anger at so-called US sanctions imposed on six PRC and HKSAR

government officials

The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government today (January 16) sternly denounced the "coercive measures" taken by the United States (US) Department of State under the so-called "The President's Executive Order on Hong Kong Normalization" against six officials of the Central People's Government and the HKSAR Government. This latest attempt of the US Government to intervene into internal affairs of the People's Republic of China (PRC) and obstruct actions taken by the HKSAR authorities to safeguard national security, since the enactment of The Law of the People's Republic of China on Safeguarding National Security in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (the National Security Law) on June 30, 2020, is insane, shameless and despicable.

"National security is a matter within the purview of the Central Authorities. Whether it is a unitary or federal state, legislation on national security is invariably carried out by the central authorities. The National Security Law was passed by the National People's Congress Standing Committee, the highest organ of state power of the PRC, to establish and improve the legal system and enforcement mechanisms for the HKSAR to safeguard national security," a Government spokesman said.

"In adopting a Decision on the National Security Law on May 28, 2020, the National People's Congress made it clear that the country resolutely opposed interference in the HKSAR's affairs by any foreign or external forces in any form, and would take necessary countermeasures to prevent, stop and punish in accordance with the law activities of secession, subversion, infiltration and sabotage carried out by foreign or external forces in Hong Kong."

"Since implementation of the National Security Law on June 30, 2020, the US Government has exploited every incident and excuse to make slandering remarks about the National Security Law and attack the PRC and the HKSAR authorities in their dutiful, faithful and lawful implementation of the National Security Law. We could not help but suspect that the National Security Law has touched a nerve of those foreign or external forces."

"Indeed, for months during the outbreak of anti-government riots and extensive violence in Hong Kong in 2019, and further to the enactment of the National Security Law, we have seen the US Congress and the White House making successive laws and pronouncing sweeping actions pursuant to the President's executive order targeting the HKSAR under the pretext of human rights, democracy and autonomy. With recent events in the United States Capitol, it should be obvious to and resented by many people, locally and around the world, that the US acts are displaying double standards and hypocrisy, let alone blatantly breaching international laws and basic norms governing international relations."

"At the 2020 Colloquium on International Law held in Hong Kong on

December 3, 2020, the Secretary for Justice, Ms Teresa Cheng, SC, of the HKSAR Government, referred to the recent 'unilateral coercive measures' taken against certain government officials in the PRC and HKSAR by the US in response to the enactment of the National Security Law as an example of failing to respect the principle of non-intervention which has been upheld internationally."

"The Secretary pointed out that safeguarding national security is a matter of national sovereignty, which every State should enjoy under international law. Each State enjoys the rights inherent in full sovereignty and the territorial integrity and political independence of the State are inviolable. Enacting national security legislation is without a doubt an inherent right of every sovereign State."

"Safeguarding national security through legislation is in line with international practice. Contrary to allegations that the National Security Law undermines the 'One Country, Two Systems' framework, the National Security Law fully and faithfully implements the principles of 'One Country, Two Systems', 'Hong Kong people administering Hong Kong' and a high degree of autonomy. It clearly stipulates four types of offences endangering national security and the penalties. At the same time, the National Security Law contains specific provisions upholding Hong Kong people's rights and freedoms under the Basic Law as well as the relevant provisions of international covenants on human rights as applied to Hong Kong. The Law also provides for the presumption of innocence, the prohibition of double jeopardy, and the right to defend oneself and other rights in judicial proceedings that a criminal suspect, defendant and other parties in judicial proceedings are entitled to under the law."

"These important features have put the National Security Law on par with, if not superior to, similar national security laws in other jurisdictions, including those enacted in the US. Both in terms of making legislation and implementing legislation, the world has seen the display of double standards by the US Government."

"The National Security Law, or indeed any law in the HKSAR, applies equally to every person in Hong Kong; no one is above the law. We are appalled by irresponsible remarks made by overseas government officials that seemed to suggest that people with certain political beliefs should be immune to legal sanctions. We are even more alarmed by the call contained in the US Department of State's statement that suspects arrested by law enforcement agencies in the HKSAR should be immediately released."

"Hong Kong prides itself on the rule of law; law enforcement agencies are duty-bound to take action against unlawful acts, regardless of the political background of the suspects. Arrests made are based on evidence and strictly in accordance with relevant laws and regulations."

"As provided for in the Basic Law, the Department of Justice of the HKSAR Government makes independent prosecutorial decisions based on evidence, applicable laws and in accordance with its Prosecution Code, free from any interference. Any person who is prosecuted has the right to a fair trial by

our independent courts, and the burden is on the prosecution to prove that the accused committed a crime beyond reasonable doubt before there can be a conviction. Enshrined in the Basic Law – Articles 2, 19 and 85, the courts of the HKSAR enjoy judicial power independently, including that of final adjudication, free from any interference."

"We have reminded the US ad nauseam of relevant provisions in the Basic Law, particularly Article 12 which stipulates that the HKSAR is a local administrative region of the PRC, which shall enjoy a high degree of autonomy and come directly under the Central People's Government; that the Constitution of the PRC and the Basic Law of the HKSAR form the constitutional basis of the HKSAR. Unfortunately, all these have fallen on deaf ears as the relevant US officials have chosen to make unsubstantiated and sweeping comments to serve their own interest."

"The US Government's claim that the imposition of the so-called 'sanctions' or 'designation' of certain individuals for punitive actions was in response to the enactment and enforcement of the National Security Law. This is a lame excuse that could hardly stand up to challenge."

The spokesman severely condemned the US Government for yet again resorting to the "tool" of threatening PRC and HKSAR government officials through economic, financial or other means, and deliberately making public the personal information of those government officials.

"Speaking on behalf of her senior colleagues who have been targeted in successive acts of the US Department of State since last August for their involvement in the National Security Law, the Chief Executive, Mrs Carrie Lam, said that such a deplorable move is totally illegitimate and violates established principles of international law. It will not achieve its objective of implicit subjugation. I and my colleagues are discharging an honourable duty to prevent, stop and punish in accordance with the law acts and activities endangering national security. We will not be intimidated," the spokesman said.

"The HKSAR Government will fully support the Central Government in adopting appropriate counter-measures."

Appointments to Quality Education Fund Steering Committee

The Education Bureau today (January 16) announced the appointment of members to the Quality Education Fund Steering Committee (QEFSC) for a term of two years, from January 16, 2021, to January 15, 2023.

The following members have been appointed to the QEFSC:

- * Ms Rita Chan Yin-nei
- * Ms Daphne Ho Kin-yi
- * Ms Promail Leung Kin-yi
- * Mr Addy Wong Wai-hung

The following members have been re-appointed to the QEFSC:

- * Ms Kelly Chan Yuen-sau
- * Ms Jane Leung Chui-chun
- * Ms Angela Leung Wai-tuen
- * Miss Bella Lo Sung-yi
- * Mr Pang Chor-fu
- * Mr Shum Yiu-kwong
- * Mr Yeung Sai-man

"With the re-appointment and new appointment of members to the QEFSC, I am confident that the Quality Education Fund (QEF) will continue to achieve outstanding results in the promotion of quality school education in Hong Kong," said the Secretary for Education, Mr Kevin Yeung.

He also thanked the outgoing members, Dr Eugene Chan Kin-keung, Dr Ho Yuk-fan, Dr Brian Lo Kin-hang and Dr Mak Chi-keung, for their valuable contributions to the QEFSC in the past years.

The QEF was established in early 1998 with \$5 billion in capital to fund community initiatives which promote quality education in Hong Kong. The QEFSC advises on the policies and operation of the QEF and also makes recommendations to the Fund's Trustee on the awards of grants.

Since its establishment, the Fund has supported over 11 600 projects with grants totalling around \$5.5 billion. As at end-November 2020, the fund balance of the QEF (unaudited) was about \$10.1 billion.