

United Christian Hospital announces two patients confirmed COVID-19 infection

The following is issued on behalf of the Hospital Authority:

The spokesperson for United Christian Hospital (UCH) made the following announcement concerning two COVID-19 cases today (December 2):

A 52-year-old female patient attended UCH Accident and Emergency Department (AED) on Monday (November 30) morning due to mild fever and cough, her chest x-ray was clear with no signs of pneumonia. As the patient experienced dizziness during observation, clinical staff arranged for her to be admitted to a medicine and geriatrics ward for further treatment. The hospital arranged COVID-19 deep throat saliva test for her and the test result was positive. The patient was transferred to isolation ward immediately and she is currently in stable condition.

The hospital's infection control team conducted contact tracing and identified five other female patients who had stayed in the same cubicle with the confirmed patient. They are classified as close contacts and will be quarantined for 14 days. Their COVID-19 test results were negative. As the patient has stayed in another cubicle briefly, eight female patients are classified as other contacts and will have to undergo 28 days of medical surveillance. All staff members working in the concerned ward were equipped with appropriate personal protective equipment in accordance with infection control guidelines and no aerosol generating procedures had been performed during that period. Therefore, none of the staff members is being classified as close contact up till now, while contact tracing is still underway.

The second case concerns a 77-year-old female patient, she was admitted to an isolation cubicle in surgical ward at around 11pm yesterday (December 1) due to dysuria and fever, medical staff arranged COVID-19 deep throat saliva test for her and the test result was preliminary positive. She was then transferred to isolation ward for further treatment and is currently in stable condition.

As the patient is on Continuous Positive Airway Pressure machine at night, three ward staff who went into the room for a short while without appropriate personal protective equipment are classified as close contacts and will be quarantined. As the patient did not wear her mask properly, as precautionary measure, three staff are classified as other contacts so far and would have to undergo medical surveillance. The hospital is arranging COVID-19 tests for the colleagues concerned. All healthcare workers are reminded to wear full personal protective equipment when performing high-risk medical procedures in the hospital.

For the above two cases, the hospital has arranged thorough cleansing and disinfection of the areas in AED and wards concerned. The hospital would continue to closely monitor the health of the staff and patients and communicate with Centre Health Protection about the latest situation.