

CS welcomes and supports white paper titled "The Taiwan Question and China's Reunification in the New Era"

â€‹The Chief Secretary for Administration, Mr Chan Kwok-ki, today (August 10) welcomed and supported the white paper titled "The Taiwan Question and China's Reunification in the New Era" (white paper) published by the Central Government.

Mr Chan pointed out that the one-China principle is a widely recognised norm governing international relations and an overwhelming consensus of the international community. There is only one version and one connotation of the one-China principle, that is, there is only one China in the world and Taiwan is part of China. The government of the People's Republic of China is the sole legal government representing the entire China. These are indisputable facts supported by history and the law. The white paper elaborates on the position and policies of the Central Authorities on realising national reunification. Not only does it resolutely refute any misrepresentation or distortion of the facts concerned, but it also clearly shows that any attempt or act to betray the one-China principle or seek "Taiwan independence" will definitely be futile.

He said, "The white paper clearly states that peaceful reunification and 'One Country, Two Systems' are the country's basic principles for resolving the Taiwan question and the best approach to realising national reunification. As a matter of fact, the success of 'One Country, Two Systems' practised in Hong Kong over the past 25 years has won recognition throughout the world. The principle is the best institutional arrangement to ensure Hong Kong's long-term prosperity and stability after our return to the motherland, embodying the country's vision that values openness and inclusiveness and serving the fundamental interests of the whole country, the nation and Hong Kong. The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) will continue to fully and faithfully implement the principle of 'One Country, Two Systems', and steadfastly support and facilitate the country's efforts towards peaceful national reunification, to unwaveringly safeguard the country's sovereignty, security and development interests."

Mr Chan stressed that the HKSAR Government will fully support and facilitate the country's safeguarding of its sovereignty and territorial integrity, and resolutely handle Taiwan-related matters in accordance with the Basic Law of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China, the one-China principle, and the Basic Principles and Policies of the Central Government regarding the Handling of Taiwan-related Matters in Hong Kong.

CHP investigates locally acquired SARS-CoV-2 virus cases with 1 716 cases tested positive by nucleic acid tests and 2 628 cases by RATs verified as well as 249 imported cases

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health (DH) today (August 10) announced the latest epidemic situation of COVID-19. As of 0.00am, August 10, the CHP was investigating 4 344 additional locally acquired cases tested positive for the SARS-CoV-2 virus, including 1 716 cases tested positive by nucleic acid tests (757 confirmed cases, 758 asymptomatic cases and 201 cases with pending case status) and 2 628 cases tested positive by rapid antigen tests (RATs) verified in the past 24 hours.

Separately, 249 additional imported cases were reported, including 212 cases tested positive by nucleic acid tests (10 confirmed cases, 150 asymptomatic cases and 52 cases with pending case status) and 37 cases tested positive by RATs.

Hong Kong has recorded a total of 837 821 and 560 099 cases that have tested positive by nucleic acid tests and RATs respectively for the SARS-CoV-2 virus so far.

The CHP is continuing with epidemiological investigations on the cases. Please refer to the "COVID-19 Thematic Website" (www.coronavirus.gov.hk) for more information.

As of yesterday (August 9), among the specimens received by the DH's Public Health Laboratory Services Branch in the past seven days for verification testing of local cases, about 7.0 per cent and 10.7 per cent of them are related to the sub-lineages BA.2.12.1 and BA.4/BA.5 (including suspected cases) under the Omicron mutant strain respectively.

In addition, as of 0.00am, August 10, a total of 9 341 death cases that had tested positive for the SARS-CoV-2 virus during the fifth wave (since December 31, 2021) were recorded, with 9 261 and 77 deaths reported from the Hospital Authority and public mortuaries respectively as well as three deaths reported from the Chinese University of Hong Kong Medical Centre. Hong Kong has so far recorded a total of 9 554 death cases that have tested positive for the SARS-CoV-2 virus.

Furthermore, among the earlier cases by nucleic acid tests reported, there were cases (including pending cases) changed to confirmed, asymptomatic or re-positive cases. As at yesterday, the total number of confirmed cases

was 362 216, while the figures for asymptomatic cases, re-positive cases and pending/unknown cases recorded since January 1 were 237 880, 31 and 235 766 respectively.

The spokesman for the CHP stressed that as the local situation of COVID-19 infection is still severe, the CHP strongly appeals to the community to continue to comply with social distancing measures, avoid going out and refrain from participating in unnecessary or crowded activities or gatherings. This would lower the risk of infection and prevent the virus from spreading in the community.

â€‹â€‹The spokesman reminded that COVID-19 vaccines are highly effective in preventing severe cases and deaths from the SARS-CoV-2 virus. They can provide effective protection to those vaccinated in preventing serious complications and even death after infection. People who have yet to receive vaccination, especially senior citizens, chronic patients and other immunocompromised persons who face a higher chance of death after COVID-19 infection, should get vaccinated as early as possible for self-protection and to reduce the risk of falling seriously ill and death should they get infected.

Hospital Authority announces positive patient cases detected via admission screening or testing and clusters of nosocomial COVID-19 infections

The following is issued on behalf of the Hospital Authority:

The Hospital Authority today (August 10) announced information regarding patients who tested positive via admission screening or testing with patients or staff members identified as close contacts and nosocomial COVID-19 infection cases.

The following are the statistics of patients who tested positive via admission screening or by testing in public hospitals with patients or staff members identified as close contacts:

Hospital/clinic	Number of patients who tested positive	Number of patients identified as close contacts	Number of staff members without appropriate personal protective equipment identified as close contacts
Pamela Youde Nethersole Eastern Hospital	1	1	–
Caritas Medical Centre	1	4	–
Prince of Wales Hospital	3	4	–

The following are the statistics of clusters of nosocomial infection cases in public hospitals:

Hospital/clinic	Number of patients who tested positive	Number of staff members who tested positive
Castle Peak Hospital	1	–

Thorough cleaning and disinfection operations have been conducted for the wards concerned. The hospitals will continue to monitor the health condition of patients and staff members closely, and communicate with the Centre for Health Protection on the latest situation.

[Hong Kong Customs seizes suspected heroin worth about \\$4.7 million \(with photos\)](#)

â€‹Hong Kong Customs on August 7 seized about 5 kilograms of suspected heroin with an estimated market value of about \$4.7 million at Hong Kong International Airport.

Through risk assessment, Customs on that day inspected an air consignment, declared as carrying boxing accessories, arriving in Hong Kong from Thailand at the airport. Upon inspection, Customs officers found the batch of suspected heroin concealed inside 14 kick pads.

After a follow-up investigation, Customs officers yesterday (August 9)

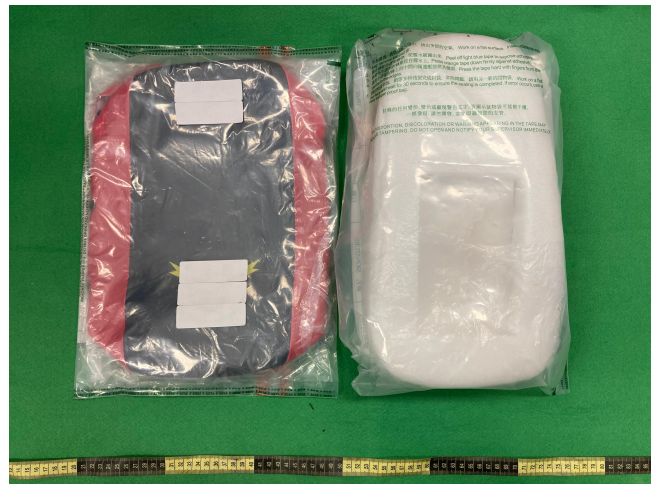
arrested a 40-year-old man suspected to be connected with the case in North Point.

The arrested man has been charged with one count of trafficking in a dangerous drug and will appear at the Eastern Magistrates' Courts tomorrow (August 11).

Customs reminds members of the public to stay alert and not to participate in drug trafficking activities for monetary return. They must not accept hiring or delegation from another party to carry controlled items in and out of Hong Kong. They are also reminded not to carry unknown items for other people, nor to release their personal data or home address to others for receiving parcels or goods.

Under the Dangerous Drugs Ordinance, trafficking in a dangerous drug is a serious offence. The maximum penalty upon conviction is a fine of \$5 million and life imprisonment.

Members of the public may report any suspected drug trafficking activities to Customs' 24-hour hotline 2545 6182 or its dedicated crime-reporting email account (crimereport@customs.gov.hk).



[CE welcomes and supports white paper on “The Taiwan Question and China’s Reunification in the New Era”](#)

â€‹The Chief Executive, Mr John Lee, today (August 10) welcomed and expressed support for the white paper on "The Taiwan Question and China's Reunification in the New Era" published by the Central Government. The paper righteously reiterates to the world the fact that Taiwan is part of China and demonstrates the Central Authorities' firm stance and policy on materialising the reunification of the motherland.

Citing historical developments and jurisprudence, the white paper states that the one-China policy is a universal consensus of the international community and an indisputable and unalterable fact as reflected in the relevant resolution passed by the United Nations General Assembly.

According to the white paper, "Peaceful reunification and 'One Country, Two Systems' are our basic principles for resolving the Taiwan question and the best approach to realizing national reunification. Embodying the Chinese wisdom – we thrive by embracing each other – they take full account of Taiwan's realities and are conducive to long-term stability in Taiwan after reunification."

Mr Lee said that the white paper rightly pointed out that some political forces in Taiwan have long been purposefully misinterpreting and smearing "One Country, Two Systems" and advocating "Taiwan independence". "One Country, Two Systems" is proven to be a successful national policy. The successful implementation of "One Country, Two Systems" in Hong Kong is widely recognised. Being the best institutional guarantee for Hong Kong, "One Country, Two Systems" is an important cornerstone for maintaining Hong Kong's long-term prosperity and stability, and a successful national policy that provides the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) with its unique edge of having close connections with the world and strong support from the motherland. The thorough and precise implementation of the "One Country, Two Systems" principle opens up broader prospects for the development of Hong Kong.

"With the institutional safeguard of the 'One Country, Two Systems' principle, the appropriate improvements made as well as the series of measures taken by the Central Government which addressed both the symptoms and root causes of the unrest while upholding the 'One Country, Two Systems' principle, Hong Kong rode out the destruction and threats brought by riots and 'Hong Kong independence' fueled by external forces some three years ago. Now that Hong Kong has moved from disarray to good governance, it is advancing to a new stage of becoming more prosperous. This not only demonstrates the importance of the 'One Country, Two Systems' principle in safeguarding the fundamental interests of Hong Kong, but also proves that the more firmly the 'One Country' principle is upheld, the greater the strength of the 'Two Systems' that will be unleashed for the development of Hong Kong," he said.

Mr Lee reiterated that the HKSAR Government resolutely safeguards China's national sovereignty and territorial integrity, and safeguards the one-China principle. The HKSAR Government resolutely opposes any interference by external forces in the internal affairs of China, and fully supports and facilitates the necessary measures by the Central Government.