

Public hospitals daily update on COVID-19 cases

The following is issued on behalf of the Hospital Authority:

As at 0.00am today (May 26), a total of 447 patients who tested positive for COVID-19 are currently hospitalised for treatment, including 55 new patients. Among the patients staying in isolation facilities, 75 patients are in isolation wards, 10 patients are in second-tier isolation wards and 38 patients are in the North Lantau Hospital Hong Kong Infection Control Centre, of which 18 in total are new patients. Among the hospitalised patients, 11 of them are in critical condition and nine are in serious condition, of which five critical patients are receiving intensive care. There were 85 patients who have recovered, including 59 patients who have been discharged. In addition, two patients who passed away in public hospitals were reported.

In the fifth wave of the epidemic, there are 50 024 patients who have recovered so far, including 49 718 patients who have been discharged. And since early 2020, there are 62 404 patients who have recovered, including 62 098 patients who have been discharged.

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.

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CHP investigates 32 confirmed and 64 asymptomatic additional SARS-CoV-2 virus cases with 15 cases pending status by nucleic acid tests as well as 140 cases tested positive by rapid antigen tests

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health (DH) today (May 26) announced the latest epidemic situation of COVID-19. As of 0.00am, May 26, the CHP was investigating 111 additional cases that tested positive for the SARS-CoV-2 virus by nucleic acid tests (32 confirmed cases, 64 asymptomatic cases and 15 cases with pending case status) in the past 24 hours. Separately, 140 additional positive cases through rapid antigen tests (RATs) (74 symptomatic cases and 66 asymptomatic cases) were reported. Hong Kong has recorded a total of 761 620 and 449 718 cases that have tested positive by nucleic acid tests and RATs respectively for the SARS-CoV-2 virus so far.

The aforementioned newly reported cases consist of 36 imported cases (31 cases and five cases tested positive by nucleic acid tests and RATs respectively). 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.

Meanwhile, according to the whole genome sequencing analysis by the DH's Public Health Laboratory Services Branch, Hong Kong has recorded a total of 13 cases, 70 cases, 12 cases and three cases carrying the sub-lineages BA.2.12, BA.2.12.1, BA.4 and BA.5 under the Omicron mutant strain respectively.

In addition, as of 0.00am, May 26, a total of 9 161 death cases that had tested positive for the SARS-CoV-2 virus during the fifth wave (since December 31, 2021) were recorded, with 9 083 and 75 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 9 374 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 (May 25), the total number of confirmed cases was 332 143, while the figures for asymptomatic cases, re-positive cases and pending/unknown cases recorded since January 1 were 198 870, 24 and 230 472 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.

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.

[HAD distributes complimentary COVID-19 rapid test kits to households, cleansing workers and property management staff in Islands, Sha Tin and Kwai Tsing Districts \(with photos\)](#)

In light of positive test results for the COVID-19 virus from sewage samples collected in Islands, Sha Tin and Kwai Tsing Districts, the Home Affairs Department (HAD) said today (May 26) that the Islands District Office (IsDO), the Sha Tin District Office (STD0) and the Kwai Tsing District Office (K&TD0) have distributed a total of about 167 000 COVID-19 rapid test kits to households, cleansing workers and property management staff living and working in the Districts.

The IsDO distributed rapid test kits to households, cleansing workers and property management staff living and working in The Visionary, Century Link and Century Link II for voluntary testing through the property management companies.

The STD0 also distributed rapid test kits to households, cleansing workers and property management staff living and working in Saddle Ridge Garden, Kam Ying Court, Monte Vista, Kam Lung Court, Park Belvedere and The Met. Blossom for voluntary testing through the property management companies and the owners' corporations.

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In addition, the K&TDO started to distribute rapid test kits to households, cleansing workers and property management staff living and working in Kwai Chung Plaza, Yee Fat Building, Shui King Building, Kam Shek Building, Kwai Po Building, Kwai Lai Building, Kam Wa Building, Kwai Fu Building, Tin On House, Sin Hua Bank Building, Kam Luk Building, Kwai Fat Building and Kwok Po Building for voluntary testing through the property management companies and the owners' corporations.

The HAD made the above arrangements in the hope of identifying infected persons early.

Members of the public may refer to the demonstration video produced by the Centre for Health Protection (CHP) under the Department of Health (DH) via www.youtube.com/watch?v=yzFAUzTtmKk to learn how to use the rapid antigen test (RAT) kit.

Persons testing positive through an RAT should take a photo of the test result and declare the result within 24 hours via the Declaration System for Individuals Tested Positive for COVID-19 Using Rapid Antigen Test (www.chp.gov.hk/ratp). If members of the public encounter difficulties in using the online platform, they can call the automated system at 183 6119 to register their identification document and telephone number. The CHP under the DH will contact the relevant person later to complete the report procedure. There is no need to declare negative test results.

The Government appeals for the co-operation of members of the public to safeguard the health of themselves and their families by undergoing testing on a voluntary basis and fighting the virus together. The Government urges all individuals who are in doubt about their own health condition, or individuals with infection risks (such as individuals who have visited places with epidemic outbreaks or had contact with cases that tested positive), to undergo testing promptly for early identification of infected persons to reduce the transmission risks of COVID-19.



Submissions from NGOs invited for study and further work relating to reviewing practice of rule of law in region and beyond

The Department of Justice (DoJ) today (May 26) invited non-profit making non-governmental organisations (NGOs) based in Hong Kong to make submissions to take forward the study and further work relating to reviewing the practice of rule of law in the region and beyond through public-private partnership.

The DoJ launched the Vision 2030 for Rule of Law initiative in 2020 to promote the proper understanding and recognition of the rule of law, thereby contributing to sustainable development of inclusive and fair societies at both the domestic and international levels. To advance the work for effective implementation of the initiative, the Task Force on Vision 2030 for Rule of Law comprising internationally renowned experts and academics was established to advise the Government on its proposal to achieve the intended policy objective.

Under the guidance of the Task Force, the DoJ launched a rule of law database, which sets out a proposed methodology for reviewing the practice of rule of law based on objective data and information, in November 2021. The Task Force advised that it is necessary to take into account the uniqueness of different jurisdictions' rule of law practices such as their cultural, geographical, socio-political, economic and legal tradition, and hence further development and refinement to the database would be necessary. Further explanation and illustration of the methodology are set out in the Vision 2030 Task Force Report launched today during the Vision 2030 for Rule of Law International Symposium. In addition, the Task Force also supported various regional and international capacity building activities taken forward by the DoJ.

To continue taking forward the study and further work in relation to the above through public-private partnership, independent NGOs based in Hong Kong with relevant background and expertise in the promotion and study of reviewing the practice of rule of law in Hong Kong and in the region and beyond are invited to make a submission to the DoJ. The DoJ will use its best endeavours to provide the necessary support for the study and work by the selected entity.

Interested entities should make a submission (including all necessary supporting information and documents demonstrating inter alia, their relevant experience and expertise, and the level of commitment and appreciation of the above initiatives as well as the business plan required to take forward the relevant study and work) on or before June 16, 2022, to the Inclusive Dispute Avoidance and Resolution Office, Department of Justice, 7/F, Main Wing, Justice Place, 18 Lower Albert Road, Central, Hong Kong, for consideration. The DoJ may also request supplementary information as necessary. For more details, please visit the [DoJ's website](#).