

[AFCD seizes 17 pieces of suspected ivory products \(with photo\)](#)

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) yesterday (January 20) seized 17 pieces of suspected elephant ivory products from a shop in Central and Western District.

AFCD staff conducted inspections in Central and Western District on January 20 and found a shop suspected of possessing scheduled elephant ivory for commercial purposes. The shop was suspected of selling elephant ivory products that have been banned from the local trade as well as selling alleged antique elephant ivory without providing any proof. The AFCD has seized the items for further investigation.

A spokesman for the AFCD said, "The Government is committed to the protection of endangered species, including elephants. The Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants (Amendment) Ordinance 2018 has been fully implemented since December 31, 2021, such that import, re-export and commercial possession of elephant ivory (except for 'antique elephant ivory') have been banned. The AFCD has stepped up inspection efforts, and will remain in close contact with the Customs and Excise Department and relevant government departments to combat smuggling and illegal trade of ivory."

According to the Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants Ordinance (Cap. 586) (the Ordinance), "commercial purposes" means:

- (1) a purpose relating to trade or business; or
- (2) a purpose of obtaining profit or other economic benefit (whether in cash or in kind) and directed towards sale, resale, exchange, provision of a service or other form of economic use or benefit, whether direct or indirect.

According to the Ordinance, "antique elephant ivory" means:

- (1) a piece of elephant ivory that was, before July 1, 1925:
 - (i) removed from the wild;
 - (ii) significantly altered from its natural state for jewellery, adornment, art, utility or musical instruments; and
 - (iii) acquired by a person after the alteration in such altered state that required no further carving, crafting or processing to effect its purpose; and
- (2) does not include an elephant hunting trophy.

Traders possessing "antique elephant ivory" for commercial purposes must prove that the ivory meets the above-mentioned definition of "antique elephant ivory". Examples of acceptable proof of "antique elephant ivory" include a qualified appraisal or scientifically approved aging methods carried out by an accredited laboratory or facility.

Any person importing, re-exporting or possessing elephant ivory not in

accordance with the Ordinance will be liable to a maximum fine of \$10 million and imprisonment for 10 years upon conviction. The specimens will also be forfeited.



[Missing woman in Sha Tin located](#)

A woman who went missing in Sha Tin has been located.

Lin Shanshan, aged 51, went missing after she left her residence in Fung Wo Estate on November 17, 2021 afternoon. Her family made a report to Police on November 20, 2021.

The woman returned to her residence today (January 21). She sustained no injuries and no suspicious circumstances were detected.

[Update on cluster of Enterovirus/Rhinovirus and Parainfluenza virus cases in Kwong Wah Hospital](#)

The following is issued on behalf of the Hospital Authority:

Regarding an earlier announcement on a cluster of patients who were confirmed to have Enterovirus/Rhinovirus and Parainfluenza Virus Type 3 in a paediatrics and adolescent ward, the spokesperson for Kwong Wah Hospital (KWH) made the following update today (January 21):

One more patient (a six-month-old baby girl) in the ward has presented with fever since January 21. The appropriate viral test was arranged for the baby girl and the test result was positive for Parainfluenza Virus Type 3. The patient is being treated under isolation and is in stable condition.

Enhanced infection control measures have already been adopted in the ward concerned according to prevailing guidelines. Droplet and contact precautions, hand hygiene, cleaning and disinfection of the environment and equipment have also been strengthened.

The hospital will continue to closely monitor the situation in the ward concerned. The case has been reported to the Hospital Authority Head Office and the Centre for Health Protection for follow-up.

Public hospitals daily update on COVID-19 cases

The following is issued on behalf of the Hospital Authority:

As at 9am today (January 21), 21 patients who had tested positive for the SARS-CoV-2 virus (case numbers: 12579, 12607, 12627, 12634, 12697, 12698, 12740, 12743, 12751, 12756, 12757, 12774, 12817, 12827, 12829, 12834, 12881, 12903, 12921, 12961 and 12998) were discharged from hospital in the last 24 hours. So far, a total of 12 514 patients have been discharged.

A total of 333 patients who had tested positive are currently hospitalised in the North Lantau Hospital Hong Kong Infection Control Centre, the Hospital Authority (HA) Infectious Disease Centre, the Community Treatment Facility at AsiaWorld-Expo and two public hospitals. All of them are in stable condition.

The HA 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.

CHP investigates 11 confirmed and 13 asymptomatic additional SARS-CoV-2

virus cases, updates cases classification and identifies 11 additional Omicron cases from previously announced cases

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health (DH) today (January 21) announced the latest epidemic situation of COVID-19. As of 0.00am, January 21, the CHP was investigating 11 additional confirmed cases and 13 additional asymptomatic cases in the past 24 hours (i.e. there were 24 additional cases that tested positive for the SARS-CoV-2 virus confirmed by the Public Health Laboratory Services Branch (PHLSB) in those 24 hours). This brings the total number of confirmed cases to 12 918 so far, while the figures for asymptomatic cases and re-positive cases recorded since January 1 are 198 and four respectively, i.e. Hong Kong has recorded a total of 13 120 cases that tested positive for the SARS-CoV-2 virus so far.

The newly reported cases consist of six imported cases, 11 cases epidemiologically linked with imported cases, two local cases, and five cases epidemiologically linked with local cases. Twenty of the cases involve mutant strains, the mutation test results of three cases are pending, and the viral load of the remaining case is insufficient for mutation tests. The patients comprise 11 males and 13 females, aged 14 to 82. For case details and contact tracing information, please see the Annex or the "COVID-19 Thematic Website" (www.coronavirus.gov.hk).

The 11 cases epidemiologically linked with imported cases are 13108 (63-year-old male who is a family member of cases 12944 and 12960 living together); 13112 and 13122 (67-year-old male and 54-year-old female, who are family members of case 13072); 13114 (14-year-old female who is a classmate of case 13098); 13121 (46-year-old female who is a family member of cases 13079 and 13091 living together); as well as six cases related to Yat Kwai House, Kwai Chung Estate, Kwai Chung (13104, 13111, 13113, 13116, 13117 and 13125, involving six females aged between 28 and 69).

The two local cases are 13103 (24-year-old male who lives in Cheung Yan House, Cheung Sha Wan Estate, 9 Tonkin Street, Cheung Sha Wan) and 13107 (37-year-old male who lives in Tower 1, New Haven, 363 Sha Tsui Road, Tsuen Wan). The five cases epidemiologically linked with local cases are 13110 (82-year-old male who visited the restaurant Dragon Place, 1/F, Aberdeen Centre Site 3, same as case 13073); 13118 and 13123 (38-year-old female and 42-year-old male, who are family members of cases 13059 and 13073 living together); 13120 (30-year-old female who bought a hamster at Little Boss pet shop in Causeway Bay on January 11); and 13124 (23-year-old female who bought a hamster at Little Boss at Kai Wan Building, 142-146 Tung Choi Street, Mong Kok on January 4).

Also, the CHP announced earlier that further epidemiological information

revealed that case 13064 went to Yat Kwai House, Chin Kwai House and Luk Kwai House of Kwai Chung Estate on January 13, and stayed in the garbage rooms of the buildings concerned. It was preliminarily opined that case 13064 spread the virus to relevant workers or residents of that building during his stay at Yat Kwai House. As such, relevant cases 13085, 13090 and 13100 are reclassified from local case/possibly local-related case to cases epidemiologically linked with an imported case.

A total of 264 cases that tested positive for the SARS-CoV-2 virus have been reported in the past 14 days (January 7 to 20). Seventy-eight of them are epidemiologically linked with imported cases, four are local cases, two are cases epidemiologically linked with local case, and the rest are imported cases.

Meanwhile, the whole genome sequencing analysis of cases announced earlier conducted by the PHLSB confirmed that cases 13001, 13002, 13038, 13039, 13042, 13043, 13046, 13048 to 13050 and 13079 all carried the Variant of Concern Omicron. Together with the aforementioned cases, there are so far 506 cases involving Omicron in Hong Kong.

According to the testing and quarantine arrangements for cases with mutant strains, persons who resided or worked within the same building as the residence of relevant cases will be subject to compulsory testing on specified dates in accordance with the announcement by the DH. They will also be required to undergo self-monitoring until the 21st day (see the details of the buildings and dates of testing at www.coronavirus.gov.hk/pdf/CTN_Specified_premises_and_Dates_of_Testing.pdf).

The CHP strongly reminded members of the public to strictly follow the compulsory testing requirements and undergo the multiple tests on time as required. The compulsory testing requirement applies to those who have completed a COVID-19 vaccination course as well. The Government will seriously verify whether they had complied with the testing notices. Any person who fails to comply with the testing notices commits an offence and may be fined a fixed penalty of \$5,000. The person would also be issued with a compulsory testing order requiring him or her to undergo testing within a specified time frame. Failure to comply with the order is an offence and the offender would be liable to a fine at level 4 (\$25,000) and imprisonment for six months. Relevant officers of different government departments are empowered to perform certain functions under the relevant Regulations under the Prevention and Control of Disease Ordinance (Cap. 599), including requesting individuals to provide information and assistance when necessary. Any person who fails to comply with the relevant request commits an offence and would be liable to a fine at level 3 (\$10,000). The Government reiterates that the aim of issuing a compulsory testing notice is to stop the spread of COVID-19 in the community as soon as possible to protect overall public health and safety.

With the higher transmissibility and risk of infection of the Omicron mutant strain, the CHP strongly appeals to the community to comply with the recently tightened social distancing measures in the next two weeks, and to

refrain from participating in unnecessary or crowded activities or gatherings (particularly religious or cross-family activities and gatherings). This would lower the risk of infection and prevent the virus from spreading in the community.

â€‹The spokesman for the CHP stressed, "The global situation of COVID-19 infection remains severe and there is a continuous increase in the number of cases involving mutant strains that carry higher transmissibility, and there are also reports of breakthrough infections in some vaccinated individuals. The CHP strongly urges members of the public to avoid all non-essential travel outside Hong Kong, in particular to specified places with high risk under the Prevention and Control of Disease (Regulation of Cross-boundary Conveyances and Travellers) Regulation (Cap. 599H)."