

CHP follows up on five cases tested preliminarily positive for SARS-CoV-2 virus and provides update on epidemiological investigation progress of case 12767

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health (DH) today (January 5) said that it is following up on five cases tested preliminarily positive for SARS-CoV-2 virus, of which four related to an earlier case 12754 and the other one related to Moon Palace, and provides update on epidemiological investigation progress of case 12767.

The first and second case tested preliminarily positive related to case 12754 involves two female patients, aged 59 and 37, living at Serene Court, 41 Tin Hau Temple Road, Causeway Bay. The 59-year-old female patient is a close contact of case 12754 (family member of imported case 12676 living together). She has no travel history during incubation period. She had a meal together with case 12754 at Six Garden Restaurant, G/F, 1A Gordon Road, Tin Hau on December 31, 2021. She is asymptomatic and went to a community testing centre for test in the morning on January 4. She was arranged to undergo quarantine at the Penny's Bay Quarantine Centre (PBQC) on the same day. Her test result subsequently tested preliminarily positive with Ct value larger than 20. She received three doses of COVID-19 vaccination (CoronaVac) on April 21, May 20 and November 29 in Hong Kong. The 37-year-old female patient is a family member living together with the 59-year-old female patient and she has no recent travel history. She is asymptomatic and was arranged to undergo quarantine at the PBQC in the small hours on January 5. Her test result subsequently tested preliminarily positive with Ct value larger than 20. She received two doses of COVID-19 vaccination (CoronaVac) on June 9 and July 7 in Hong Kong. Both patients work at Wing Yuen Tea House, G/F, 39 Peel Street, Central. They last went to work on January 1 and January 4 respectively.

The third and fourth case related to case 12754 involves a 62-year-old female patient and a 63-year-old male patient, who live at Block 15, Provident Centre, 49 Wharf Road, North Point. The female patient is a close contact of case 12754 and they danced together between December 28 and 31, 2021 at Victoria Park and Causeway Bay Community Centre. She also had a meal gathering with the aforementioned 59-year-old female patient and case 12754 together on the same day at the Six Garden Restaurant mentioned above. She is asymptomatic and was arranged to the PBQC in the small hours on January 5. Her specimen collected on the same day tested preliminarily positive with a Ct value of about 20. She is retired and has not received COVID-19 vaccination. The 63-year-old male patient is a household contact of the 62-year-old female patient. He developed cough on January 4 and was arranged to

the PBQC in the small hours on January 5. His specimen collected on the same day tested preliminarily positive with a Ct value of about 20. He works at Room 805, 8/F, Olympia Plaza, 255 King's Road, North Point, where he last went to work on January 4. The patient has not received COVID-19 vaccination.

According to the latest epidemiological investigation, apart from case 12754 and the two female patients aged 59 and 62, the CHP found out that case 12767 announced today also had a meal at the Six Garden Restaurant during similar period of that three cases. The CHP appeals to those who had meals at Six Garden Restaurant from 8.50am to 9.50am on December 31 to call the CHP's hotlines at 2125 1111 or 2125 1122 as soon as possible to facilitate the CHP's epidemiological investigations and contact tracing. The CHP has classified the staff member of the restaurant as close contacts and will arrange them to undergo quarantine at quarantine centre.

The case related to Moon Palace that tested preliminarily positive involves a 62-year-old female living in Rock View Gardens, 36 Tat Chee Avenue, Yau Yat Chuen, Kowloon Tong. She is retired and has no recent travel history. She had a meal at Moon Palace from around 12.30pm to 1.45pm on the same day (December 27, 2021) when the earlier cases tested positive visited the restaurant. She was arranged to conduct quarantine at the PBQC in the small hours on January 4 and her specimen collected on the same day tested preliminarily positive with a Ct value larger than 20, and the result of testing for mutant strains is pending. She developed headache on December 30. She received two doses of COVID-19 vaccination (Comirnaty) on April 12 and May 3, 2021 in Hong Kong.

As the aforementioned cases may carry the Omicron mutant strain with higher transmissibility and risk of infection, the Government has made "restriction-testing declaration" last night for the buildings where the patients resided (Serene Court, 41 Tin Hau Temple Road, Causeway Bay, Block 15, Provident Centre, 49 Wharf Road, North Point and Rock View Gardens, 36 Tat Chee Avenue, Yau Yat Chuen, Kowloon Tong) and persons who resided or worked at the buildings will be subject to increased compulsory testing frequency. The places where they had visited during the incubation periods will also be included in a compulsory testing notice. Specified persons who were present at the relevant venues at specified periods need to undergo compulsory testing on the specified date.

The spokesman for the CHP said, "The Government has remained vigilant and has been closely monitoring the latest scientific data on mutant strains as well as the epidemic situation of various places. The most stringent anti-epidemic measures will be implemented to prevent the mutant strains from spreading in the local community."

At the moment, the adverse impact on the epidemic situation caused by the newly emerged mutant strains is not fully known yet, but vaccination is still essential to prevent severe cases and deaths from COVID-19 infection. The Government has launched the COVID-19 Vaccination Programme. Members of the public are encouraged to get vaccinated. Details of the programme can be found at the designated website (www.covidvaccine.gov.hk). The CHP also urges all individuals who are in doubt about their own health condition, or

individuals with exposure to infection risk, to undergo testing promptly for early identification of infected persons.