

## CHP investigates 44 confirmed and 76 asymptomatic additional SARS-CoV-2 virus cases with 326 cases pending status by nucleic acid tests as well as 301 cases that tested positive by rapid antigen tests (with photo)

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health (DH) today (April 17) announced the latest epidemic situation of COVID-19. As of 0.00am, April 17, the CHP was investigating 446 additional cases that tested positive for the SARS-CoV-2 virus by nucleic acid tests (44 confirmed cases, 76 asymptomatic cases and 326 cases with pending case status) in the past 24 hours. Separately, 301 additional positive cases through rapid antigen tests (RAT) (148 symptomatic cases and 153 asymptomatic cases) were reported. Hong Kong has recorded a total of 755 234 and 442 591 cases that tested positive by nucleic acid tests and RATs respectively for the SARS-CoV-2 virus so far.

The aforementioned newly reported cases consist of 11 imported cases (10 cases and one case tested positive by nucleic acid tests and RAT respectively). The CHP is continuing with epidemiological investigations on the cases. Please refer to the "COVID-19 Thematic Website" ([www.coronavirus.gov.hk](http://www.coronavirus.gov.hk)) for more information.

In addition, as of 0.00am, April 17, a total of 8 926 death cases that have tested positive for the SARS-CoV-2 virus during the fifth wave (since December 31, 2021) were recorded, with 8 867 and 56 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 9 139 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 (April 16), the total number of confirmed cases was 309 403, while the figures for asymptomatic cases, re-positive cases and pending/unknown cases recorded since January 1 were 185 348, 10 and 260 027 respectively.

As a passenger flight (AI316) operated by Air India arriving in Hong Kong from New Delhi and Kolkata, India, on April 16, had three passengers who tested positive upon arrival, the DH thus invoked the Prevention and Control of Disease (Regulation of Cross-boundary Conveyances and Travellers) Regulation (Cap. 599H) to prohibit the landing of passenger flights in Hong Kong from New Delhi and Kolkata operated by Air India from April 18 to 24.

The spokesman for the CHP stressed that the local situation of COVID-19 infection is still severe, the CHP strongly appeals to the community to continue to comply with the social distancing measures, avoid going out and 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.

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. Meanwhile, a person who gets COVID-19 and influenza at the same time may be more seriously ill and would have a higher risk of death. Influenza vaccination may reduce the likelihood of hospitalisation and the length of stay. In addition, seasonal influenza vaccination is recommended for all persons aged 6 months or above except those with known contraindications. Persons at higher risk of getting influenza and its complications, including the elderly and children, should receive seasonal influenza vaccination early. Please see details of the vaccination schemes on the CHP's website ([www.chp.gov.hk/en/features/17980.html](http://www.chp.gov.hk/en/features/17980.html)).

