

CHP investigates 562 confirmed and 57 asymptomatic additional SARS-CoV-2 virus cases with 1 452 pending cases status

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health (DH) today (February 14) announced the latest epidemic situation of COVID-19. As of 0.00am, February 14, the CHP was investigating 562 additional confirmed cases, 57 additional asymptomatic cases and 1 452 cases with pending case status in the past 24 hours (i.e. there were 2 071 additional cases that tested positive for the SARS-CoV-2 virus confirmed by the Public Health Laboratory Services Branch in those 24 hours). Hong Kong has recorded a total of 25 051 cases that tested positive for the SARS-CoV-2 virus so far.

The newly reported cases consist of 19 imported cases and 2 052 locally acquired cases. The CHP is actively investigating their sources of infection to see whether they are epidemiologically linked with previous cases.

As at 4pm today, a total of 8 875 cases that tested positive for the SARS-CoV-2 virus have been reported in the past 14 days (January 31 to February 13), including 8 762 locally acquired cases and 113 imported cases. In addition, among the earlier cases reported, there were cases (including pending cases) changed to confirmed, asymptomatic or re-positive cases. As at yesterday (February 13), the total number of confirmed cases were 17 932, while the figures for asymptomatic cases, re-positive cases, pending/unknown cases recorded since January 1 were 1 960, 10 and 3 078 respectively.

Also, as a passenger flight (CX796) operated by Cathay Pacific from Jakarta, Indonesia, arriving in Hong Kong on February 13 had 19 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 from Jakarta operated by Cathay Pacific in Hong Kong from February 14 to 27.

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). A list of buildings related to the cases is available at the "COVID-19 Thematic Website" (www.coronavirus.gov.hk).

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. 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.

â€‹â€‹â€‹The spokesman for the CHP stressed that the local situation of COVID-19 infection became severe recently and there is a continuous increase in the number of cases involving mutant strains that carry higher transmissibility. With the higher transmissibility and risk of infection of the Omicron mutant strain, the CHP strongly appeals to the community to continue to comply with the social distancing measures, avoid going out 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.