

CHP investigates 86 confirmed and 83 asymptomatic additional SARS-CoV-2 virus cases with 36 cases pending status by nucleic acid tests as well as 142 cases tested positive by rapid antigen tests (with photo)

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health today (April 26) announced the latest epidemic situation of COVID-19. As of 0.00am, April 26, the CHP was investigating 205 additional cases that tested positive for the SARS-CoV-2 virus by nucleic acid tests (86 confirmed cases, 83 asymptomatic cases and 36 cases with pending case status) in the past 24 hours. Separately, 142 additional positive cases through rapid antigen tests (RAT) (78 symptomatic cases and 64 asymptomatic cases) were reported. Hong Kong has recorded a total of 757 727 and 444 911 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 12 imported cases (10 cases and two cases 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) for more information.

In addition, as of 0.00am, April 26, a total of 9 061 death cases that had tested positive for the SARS-CoV-2 virus during the fifth wave (since December 31, 2021) were recorded, with 8 992 and 66 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 9 274 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 25), the total number of confirmed cases was 329 270, while the figures for asymptomatic cases, re-positive cases and pending/unknown cases recorded since January 1 were 197 010, 10 and 231 232 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 (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).

