

CHP investigates locally acquired SARS-CoV-2 virus cases with 1 763 cases tested positive by nucleic acid tests and 2 525 cases by RATs verified as well as 220 imported cases

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health (DH) today (July 27) announced the latest epidemic situation of COVID-19. As of 0.00am, July 27, the CHP was investigating 4 288 additional locally acquired cases tested positive for the SARS-CoV-2 virus, including 1 763 cases tested positive by nucleic acid tests (764 confirmed cases, 809 asymptomatic cases and 190 cases with pending case status) and 2 525 cases tested positive by rapid antigen tests (RATs) verified in the past 24 hours.

Separately, 220 additional imported cases were reported, including 203 cases tested positive by nucleic acid tests (22 confirmed cases, 168 asymptomatic cases and 13 cases with pending case status) and 17 cases tested positive by RATs.

Hong Kong has recorded a total of 813 057 and 521 850 cases that have tested positive by nucleic acid tests and RATs respectively for the SARS-CoV-2 virus so far.

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.

Meanwhile, according to the analysis by the DH's Public Health Laboratory Services Branch, as of yesterday (July 26), Hong Kong had recorded a total of 19 cases, 2 238 cases and 2 308 cases carrying the sub-lineages BA.2.12, BA.2.12.1 and BA.4/BA.5 under the Omicron mutant strain respectively (including suspected cases), among which zero, 1 993 and 930 of them are local cases.

In addition, as of 0.00am, July 27, a total of 9 275 death cases that had tested positive for the SARS-CoV-2 virus during the fifth wave (since December 31, 2021) were recorded, with 9 196 and 76 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 9 488 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, the total number of confirmed cases was 351 966, while the figures for asymptomatic cases, re-positive cases and

pending/unknown cases recorded since January 1 were 225 159, 24 and 233 942 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. This would lower the risk of infection and prevent the virus from spreading in the community.

â€‹â€‹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.