

CHP investigates locally acquired SARS-CoV-2 virus cases with 1 839 cases tested positive by nucleic acid tests and 3 309 cases by RATs verified as well as 160 imported cases

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health (DH) today (August 13) announced the latest epidemic situation of COVID-19. As of 0.00am, August 13, the CHP was investigating 5 148 additional locally acquired cases that tested positive for the SARS-CoV-2 virus, comprising 1 839 cases that tested positive by nucleic acid tests (739 confirmed cases, 782 asymptomatic cases and 318 cases with pending status) and 3 309 cases that tested positive by rapid antigen tests (RATs) verified in the past 24 hours.

Separately, 160 additional imported cases were reported, including 132 cases that tested positive by nucleic acid tests (13 confirmed cases, 54 asymptomatic cases and 65 cases with pending status) and 28 cases that tested positive by RATs.

Hong Kong has recorded a total of 842 717 and 569 326 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 of the cases. Please refer to the "COVID-19 Thematic Website" (www.coronavirus.gov.hk) for more information.

As of yesterday (August 12), among the specimens received by the DH's Public Health Laboratory Services Branch in the past seven days for verification testing of local cases, about 7 per cent and 14 per cent of them are related to the sub-lineages BA.2.12.1 and BA.4/BA.5 (including suspected cases) under the Omicron mutant strain respectively.

In addition, as of 0.00am, August 13, a total of 9 349 death cases that had tested positive for the SARS-CoV-2 virus during the fifth wave (since December 31, 2021) were recorded, with 9 269 and 77 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 9 562 death cases that 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 364 409, while the figures for asymptomatic cases, re-positive cases and

pending/unknown cases recorded since January 1 were 240 150, 31 and 236 156 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€‹The spokesman reminded the public 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.