

CHP investigates locally acquired SARS-CoV-2 virus cases with 3 054 cases tested positive by nucleic acid tests and 6 213 cases by RATs as well as 228 imported cases

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health (DH) today (August 31) announced the latest epidemic situation of COVID-19. As of 0.00am, August 31, the CHP was investigating 9 267 additional locally acquired cases that tested positive for the SARS-CoV-2 virus, comprising 3 054 cases that tested positive by nucleic acid tests (1 394 confirmed cases, 1 427 asymptomatic cases and 233 cases with pending status) and 6 213 cases that tested positive by rapid antigen tests (RATs) in the past 24 hours.

Separately, 228 additional imported cases were reported, including 193 cases that tested positive by nucleic acid tests (13 confirmed cases, 151 asymptomatic cases and 29 cases with pending status) and 35 cases that tested positive by RATs.

Hong Kong has recorded a total of 887 441 and 653 362 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.

Among the specimens received by the DH's Public Health Laboratory Services Branch during August 22 to 28 for verification testing of local cases, about 7 per cent and 51.5 per cent of them (seven-day moving average) are related to the sub-lineages BA.2.12.1 and BA.4/BA.5 (including suspected cases) of the Omicron mutant strain respectively.

In addition, as of 0.00am, August 31, a total of 9 477 death cases that had tested positive for the SARS-CoV-2 virus during the fifth wave (since December 31, 2021) were recorded, with 9 396 and 78 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 9 690 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 (August 30), the total number of confirmed cases was 384 382, while the figures for asymptomatic cases, re-positive cases and pending/unknown cases recorded since January 1 were 261

101, 31 and 238 680 respectively.

The spokesman for the CHP stressed that the local situation of COVID-19 infection is severe with the number of cases tested positive growing at an increased pace. The CHP strongly appeals to the community to strictly comply with social distancing measures and refrain from participating in unnecessary or crowded activities or mass 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, children, 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.