

CHP investigates seven additional confirmed cases of COVID-19

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health (DH) announced that as of 0.00am, June 6, the CHP was investigating seven additional confirmed cases of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), taking the number of cases to 11 859 in Hong Kong so far (comprising 11 858 confirmed cases and one probable case).

Among the newly reported cases announced, six are imported cases and one is epidemiologically linked with a local case.

The case which is epidemiologically linked with a local case involves a 53-year-old female (case number: 11859). She is the mother of the case (case number: 11852) announced yesterday (June 5) and is a housewife. She was arranged to quarantine centre on June 4 as a close contact of case 11852. The patient has been asymptomatic. The test result by the DH's Public Health Laboratory Services Branch revealed that the patient carried the N501Y mutant strain but did not carry the L452R or E484K mutant gene. The CHP's investigation reveals that the patient has not received COVID-19 vaccination. The Government has yesterday exercised the power under the Prevention and Control of Disease (Compulsory Testing for Certain Persons) Regulation (Cap. 599J) and relevant persons who had been present at places visited by the case are required to undergo compulsory testing.

In addition, the CHP is investigating a preliminary positive case involving a 20-year-old female who is the daughter of case 11859 and sister of case 11852. She also resides at Shing Yu House, Tin Shing Court, Tin Shui Wai. She was arranged to quarantine centre on June 4 as a close contact of case 11852. She developed symptoms including cough, runny nose and diarrhoea on June 4 and was admitted to hospital on June 5. Her respiratory specimen was tested preliminary positive. The CHP's investigation reveals that the patient has not received COVID-19 vaccination. The patient is a student who attended online classes at home. According to the latest information provided by the patient, on May 29, she visited:

- Nina Mall 1, 8 Yeung Uk Road, Tsuen Wan
- Nina Mall 2, 98 Tai Ho Road, Tsuen Wan
- The Mills, 45 Pak Tin Par Street, Tsuen Wan
- P&P PARK shopping centre, Tsuen Wan
- NAMCO, Citywalk II, Tsuen Wan
- Volcano Kitchen One, G/F, 75 Tai Pa Street, Tsuen Wan
- Chan•Taiwan Cuisine, Shop 122, 1/F, Nina Mall 2, Tsuen Wan

and on May 23, she visited:

- K11 Musea, Victoria Dockside, 18 Salisbury Road, Tsim Sha Tsui
- Dragon Centre, 37K Yen Chow Street, Sham Shui Po
- Cats Tea Room, Room 3, 3/F, Hai Phong Mansion, 53-55 Haiphong Road, Tsim Sha Tsui
- eslite spectrum Tsim Sha Tsui Store, 2/F-3/F, Star House, 3 Salisbury Road, Tsim Sha Tsui
- Kakurega Ramen Factory, Room 7083, 7/F, Dragon Centre, 37 Yen Chow Street, Sham Shui Po

As the patient has not used the "LeaveHomeSafe" mobile app, the CHP will broadcast messages to visitors of the same venues visited by the patient according to the latest itinerary provided by the patient. Moreover, the places she had stayed during the incubation period will be included in a compulsory testing notice. People who had been present at the above venues at specified periods need to undergo compulsory testing on or before the specified date.

A total of 21 cases have been reported in the past 14 days (May 23 to June 5), one was a local case with an unknown source and the others were imported cases.

Separately, subsequent to the announcement by the CHP on the updated quarantine arrangements of local COVID-19 cases with the N501Y mutant strain, the CHP reminded that persons who resided or worked within the same building as the residence of relevant cases and had been released from the quarantine centres will be subject to compulsory testing on days 3, 7, 12 and 19 following the announcement of the relevant confirmed cases by the DH. A compulsory testing notice (CTN) was issued on May 7 (www.gld.gov.hk/egazette/pdf/202125124e/egn202125124278.pdf). They will also be required to undergo self-monitoring until the 21st day.

Specified persons in relation to the following specified premises are reminded to undergo compulsory testing in accordance with the CTN tomorrow (June 7):

- Shing Yu House, Block P, Tin Shing Court, 3 Tin Ching Street, Tin Shui Wai, New Territories.

Members of the public can check the deadlines of compulsory testing for respective specified premises as stipulated in the aforementioned CTN on the Government's website (www.coronavirus.gov.hk/pdf/CTN_Specified_premises_and_Dates_of_Testing.pdf).

The CHP's epidemiological investigations and relevant contact tracing on the confirmed cases are ongoing. For case details and contact tracing information, please see the Annex or the list of buildings with confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the past 14 days and the latest local situation of COVID-19 available on the website "COVID-19 Thematic Website" (www.coronavirus.gov.hk).

Meanwhile, the CHP reminded those who had visited specified venues under

the Prevention and Control of Disease (Compulsory Testing for Certain Persons) Regulation (Cap. 599J) to receive COVID-19 nucleic acid testing according to the CTNs. The Regulation also requires all household members of close contacts of confirmed cases to undergo a COVID-19 nucleic acid test within a specified period according to CTNs published in the Gazette. The public are also urged to seek medical attention early if symptoms develop, and undergo testing as soon as possible.

The Government has launched the COVID-19 Vaccination Programme. Members of the public are encouraged to get vaccinated. Details of the programme can be found at the designated website (www.covidvaccine.gov.hk).

The CHP called on members of the public to avoid going out, having social contact and dining out. They should put on a surgical mask and maintain stringent hand hygiene when they need to go out. The CHP strongly urged the elderly to stay home as far as possible and avoid going out. They should consider asking their family and friends to help with everyday tasks such as shopping for basic necessities.

The spokesman said, "Given that the situation of COVID-19 infection remains severe and that there is a continuous increase in the number of cases including mutant strains reported around the world, members of the public are strongly urged to avoid all non-essential travel outside Hong Kong.

"The CHP also strongly urges the public to maintain at all times strict personal and environmental hygiene, which is key to personal protection against infection and prevention of the spread of the disease in the community. On a personal level, members of the public should wear a surgical mask when having respiratory symptoms, taking public transport or staying in crowded places. They should also perform hand hygiene frequently, especially before touching the mouth, nose or eyes. Moreover, vaccination may help keep people from getting seriously ill even if they do get COVID-19, and, generally speaking, vaccines can also reduce the chance of transmission by those who have been vaccinated. People vaccinated with a COVID-19 vaccine can also generate herd immunity. Members of the public are urged to get vaccinated as soon as possible and book their vaccination appointments at the website (booking.covidvaccine.gov.hk/forms/index.jsp).

"As for household environmental hygiene, members of the public are advised to maintain drainage pipes properly and regularly pour water into drain outlets (U-traps). After using the toilet, they should put the toilet lid down before flushing to avoid spreading germs."

Moreover, the Government has launched the website "COVID-19 Thematic Website" (www.coronavirus.gov.hk) for announcing the latest updates on various news on COVID-19 infection and health advice to help the public understand the latest updates. Members of the public may also gain access to information via the COVID-19 WhatsApp Helpline launched by the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer. Simply by saving 9617 1823 in their phone contacts or clicking the link wa.me/85296171823?text=hi, they will be able to obtain information on COVID-19 as well as the "StayHomeSafe" mobile

app and wristband via WhatsApp.

To prevent pneumonia and respiratory tract infections, members of the public should always maintain good personal and environmental hygiene. They are advised to:

- Wear a surgical mask when taking public transport or staying in crowded places. It is important to wear a mask properly, including performing hand hygiene before wearing and after removing a mask;
- Perform hand hygiene frequently, especially before touching the mouth, nose or eyes, after touching public installations such as handrails or doorknobs, or when hands are contaminated by respiratory secretions after coughing or sneezing;
- Maintain drainage pipes properly and regularly (about once a week) pour about half a litre of water into each drain outlet (U-trap) to ensure environmental hygiene;
- After using the toilet, put the toilet lid down before flushing to avoid spreading germs;
- Wash hands with liquid soap and water, and rub for at least 20 seconds. Then rinse with water and dry with a disposable paper towel. If hand washing facilities are not available, or when hands are not visibly soiled, performing hand hygiene with 70 to 80 per cent alcohol-based handrub is an effective alternative;
- Cover your mouth and nose with tissue paper when sneezing or coughing. Dispose of soiled tissues into a lidded rubbish bin, then wash hands thoroughly; and
- When having respiratory symptoms, wear a surgical mask, refrain from work or attending class at school, avoid going to crowded places and seek medical advice promptly.