

CHP investigates two additional confirmed cases of COVID-19

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health has announced that as of 4pm today (June 30), the CHP was investigating two additional confirmed cases of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), taking the number of cases to 1 206 in Hong Kong so far (comprising 1 205 confirmed cases and one probable case).

The newly reported cases announced today involve two males aged 19 and 59. They had travel history during the incubation period. A symptomatic close contact of them is being arranged to be admitted to a public hospital for treatment. 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.

In addition, the CHP received a report from Mainland Customs on a cluster of laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases involving 11 crew members of a container ship, MSC Flavia, originally scheduled to disembark at Ningbo on June 26. These 11 crew members tested positive for COVID-19 by Ningbo Customs on arrival. Among them, nine crew members embarked on the container ship from Hong Kong on June 24 with six arriving in Hong Kong from Indonesia, two from Greece and one from Croatia between June 21 and 23. All were declared to be asymptomatic on arrival in Hong Kong. Two of the nine cases were subsequently detected as having fever on arrival in Ningbo while the other seven were asymptomatic. The CHP has contacted the health authority in the Mainland to obtain more information about the cases.

Meanwhile, a member company of the Cyberport Startup Alumni Association, namely HelloToby Technology (HK) Limited (Toby), has also begun to provide a door-to-door specimen collection service for COVID-19 testing provided for the CHP's Enhanced Laboratory Surveillance Programme. Together with GoGo Tech Limited (GOGO VAN) and HK PICK-UP LIMITED (Pickupp), which have already started to provide such a service earlier, there are currently three companies providing the door-to-door specimen collection service.

For service details related to the three service providers, please refer to the information below:

	GOGO VAN	Pickupp	Toby
Service subscription	www.gogovan.com.hk/covid-19-testing-en/	pupp.co/chp	www.hellotoby.com/en/ds/door-to-door-saliva-specimen-pick-up-service
General enquiries	5681 4989 (hotline)	hk@pickupp.io	3703 3250 (hotline)
Collection hours	9am to 3pm, Monday to Friday	9am to 3pm, Monday to Friday 8.30am to 10.30am on Saturdays	8.30am to 3pm, Monday to Friday 8.30am to 10.30am, Saturdays and Sundays

The CHP again urged members of the public to maintain an appropriate social distance with other people as far as possible in their daily lives to

minimise the risk of infection. In particular, they should go out less and avoid social activities such as meal gatherings or other gatherings to reduce the chance of contacting infected persons who may not present any symptoms, and minimise the risk of outbreak clusters emerging in the community.

A spokesman for the CHP said, "Given that the situation of COVID-19 infection remains severe and that there is a continuous increase in the number of cases 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.

"As for household environmental hygiene, members of the public are advised to maintain drainage pipes properly, regularly pour water into drain outlets (U-traps) and cover all floor drain outlets when they are not in use. 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 infection, 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;
- Cover all floor drain outlets when they are not in use;
- 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.