

CHP investigates two additional imported cases of novel coronavirus infection

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health (DH) announced that as of 8pm today (February 7), the CHP is investigating two additional imported cases of novel coronavirus infection, taking to 26 the number of confirmed cases so far in Hong Kong.

The first additional case involves a 58-year-old man with good past health who lives in Zhuhai. He developed fever and cough since February 4 and returned to Hong Kong on February 5. He consulted a private doctor on February 6 and sought treatment at North District Hospital (NDH) where he was admitted for isolation and management on the same day. His respiratory sample was tested positive for novel coronavirus. He is in serious condition.

The CHP has immediately commenced epidemiological investigations and conducted relevant contact tracing. According to the patient's information, he travelled from Zhuhai to Macao back and forth for work during the incubation period. He returned to Hong Kong via the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge boundary control point on February 5 and resided in Serenity Garden in Sheung Shui with his friend. Quarantine will be arranged for his friend who is asymptomatic.

The taxi driver who drove the patient from Serenity Garden, Sheung Shui to Wah Ming Shopping Centre in Fanling at around 9am on February 6, as well as another taxi driver who drove him from Wah Ming Shopping Centre in Fanling to NDH at around 11am on February 6, are urged to call the CHP hotline.

The other case involves a 42-year-old man with good past health who lives in The Palazzo, Fo Tan. He developed fever and cough since February 3 and sought treatment at Prince of Wales Hospital (PWH) where he was admitted for isolation and management on the same day. His respiratory sample was tested positive for novel coronavirus. He is in stable condition.

According to the patient's information, he went to Shenzhen Bao'an International Airport from Hong Kong on January 22 before onset of symptoms for a flight to Hebei Province, and returned by air from Hebei Province to Guangzhou on January 26 and then visited Macao on the same day. He returned to Hong Kong from Macao by ferry on February 2. The domestic helper presented with symptoms who lived with him will be sent to PWH, and quarantine will be arranged for his friend who lived with him, who is asymptomatic.

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The taxi driver who drove the patient from The Palazzo to PWH at around 2pm on February 6 is urged to call the CHP hotline.

A spokesman for the CHP said, "According to our preliminary

epidemiological investigations, some of the confirmed cases are believed to be locally infected. The CHP strongly urged 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."

The spokesman said, "On the 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. The public should go out less and reduce social activities, and maintain appropriate social distance with other people as far as possible."

"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."

The CHP will report the cases to the World Health Organization, National Health Commission, Health Commission of Guangdong Province, Health Bureau of Macao.

The CHP has today received notification on two Taiwan confirmed cases, involving one female patient and one male patient. They took the flight CX292 by Cathay Pacific (CX) from Rome to Hong Kong on January 31, and took the flight CX450 by CX from Hong Kong to Taipei on February 1.

The CHP's epidemiological investigations and relevant contact tracing on the confirmed cases are ongoing. The CHP is also closely monitoring and following up on the contact tracing of relevant confirmed cases in the Mainland and overseas. Quarantine will be arranged for close contacts while medical surveillance will be arranged for other contacts. For the progress on the contact tracing of the cases, please see annex.

The CHP has set up a hotline (2125 1122) for public enquiries. The hotline operates from 8am to midnight daily. As at 4pm today, a total of 7 161 calls were received.

A dedicated webpage (www.gov.hk/ncv) has been set up by the CHP. Information including the latest local situation, list of buildings and list of flights/trains/ships relevant to the confirmed cases, countries/areas with reported cases as well as health advice and a "Novel Coronavirus Infection Local Situation Interactive Map Dashboard" are available on the webpage to help the public grasp the latest updates.

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 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 door knobs; 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 liter of water into each drain outlet (U-traps) 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.

The public should take heed of the health advice below when travelling outside Hong Kong:

- Do not travel to Hubei Province where community transmission of novel coronavirus is occurring;
- Avoid close contact with persons with fever or respiratory symptoms in countries/areas with possible community transmission of novel coronavirus infection. If it is unavoidable to come into contact with them, put on a surgical mask and continue to do so until 14 days after returning to Hong Kong;
- Avoid visiting hospitals. If it is necessary to visit a hospital, put on a surgical mask and observe strict personal and hand hygiene;
- Avoid touching animals (including game), poultry/birds or their droppings;
- Avoid visiting wet markets, live poultry markets or farms;
- Avoid making close contact with patients, especially those with symptoms of acute respiratory infections;
- Do not consume game meat and do not patronise food premises where game meat is served;
- Adhere to food safety and hygiene rules such as avoiding consuming raw or undercooked animal products, including milk, eggs and meat, or foods which may be contaminated by animal secretions, excretions (such as urine) or contaminated products, unless they have been properly cooked, washed or peeled;
- If feeling unwell when outside Hong Kong, especially if experiencing a fever or cough, wear a surgical mask, inform the hotel staff or tour escort and seek medical advice at once; and
- After returning to Hong Kong, consult a doctor promptly if experiencing a fever or other symptoms, take the initiative to inform the doctor of any recent travel history and any exposure to animals, and wear a surgical mask

to help prevent spread of the disease.