

CHP provides update on cases related to Moon Palace

The Centre for Health Protection of the Department of Health today (January 1) provides updates on the epidemiological investigation and contact tracing of cases involving Moon Palace at Festival Walk.

Latest investigations revealed that a female aged 50 who patronised the restaurant from around 12 noon to 2pm on December 27 tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 virus today, carrying the N501Y and T478K mutant strains. She received two doses of COVID-19 vaccination (Comirnaty) on May 24 and June 14 in Hong Kong. She developed cough and runny nose on December 30 and was arranged to quarantine at the Penny's Bay Quarantine Centre (PBQC) yesterday (December 31).

The patient is a housewife who resided at Block 6, Villa Athena, 600 Sai Sha Road, Ma On Shan. Due to the presence of a mutant strain with higher transmissibility and risk of infection, the Government has adopted a prudent measure and will make a "restriction-testing declaration" tonight for the building where the patient resided. The places where she had visited during the infectious period will also be included in a compulsory testing notice. Specified persons who were present at the relevant venues at specified periods need to undergo compulsory testing on the specified date. The patient's household members and the people together with whom she had lunch at Moon Palace at the above-mentioned time are regarded as close contacts and have been arranged to undergo quarantine at PBQC.

The CHP strongly appeals to people who had meals at Moon Palace from 1pm to 3pm on December 27 to call the CHP's hotlines at 2125 1111 or 2125 1122 as soon as possible to facilitate the CHP's epidemiological investigations and contact tracing.

Epidemiological investigations and contact tracing of the case will continue.

The spokesman for the CHP said, "The Government has remained vigilant and has been closely monitoring the latest scientific data on mutant strains as well as the epidemic situation of various places. The most stringent anti-epidemic measures will be implemented to prevent the mutant strain from spreading in the local community."

At the moment, the adverse impact on the epidemic situation caused by the newly emerged mutant strains is not fully known yet, but vaccination is still essential to prevent severe cases and deaths from COVID-19 infection. 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).