<u>Cluster of Human Metapneumovirus in</u> <u>North District Hospital</u>

The following is issued on behalf of the Hospital Authority.

The spokesperson for North District Hospital made the following announcement today (July 2):

Four patients (aged 62 to 75) in a male medical ward have presented with respiratory symptoms since June 20. Appropriate viral tests had been arranged for the patients, and their test results were positive for Human Metapneumovirus. One of the patients had passed away due to his underlying medical conditions. The remaining three patients are being treated in isolation and are in stable condition.

Infection control measures have already been stepped up according to established guidelines. Droplet and contact precautions, hand hygiene, cleaning and disinfection of the environment and equipment have also been strengthened.

The hospital will continue to closely monitor the conditions of the patients in the ward. The cases have been reported to the Hospital Authority Head Office and the Centre for Health Protection for necessary follow up.