

# Infectious disease cases in New Territories East Cluster

The following is issued on behalf of the Hospital Authority:

The spokesperson for New Territories East Cluster made the following announcement today (September 27):

A 73-year-old male patient in a mixed medicine and geriatrics ward of Tai Po Hospital was confirmed as being infected with Carbapenem Resistant Acinetobacter (CRA) on September 14. The patient is being treated under isolation in stable condition. In accordance with the prevailing infection control guidelines, the hospital has screened patients who had contact with the index case. Four more patients (three female and one male, aged 84 to 89) were confirmed to be CRA carriers. They have no clinical symptoms and one of them has been discharged already. Three others are under isolation in stable condition.

The following enhanced infection control measures have already been adopted:

1. Enhance cleaning and disinfection of the ward concerned;
2. Apply stringent contact precautions and enhance hand hygiene; and
3. Enhance attention to contamination-prone procedures.

In addition, three patients (aged 51 to 61) in a female infirmary ward of Cheshire Home, Shatin presented with fever or cough since September 11. Laboratory testing was arranged for the patients and their test results were positive for Enterovirus/Rhinovirus. The patients are being treated under isolation in stable condition.

Admission to the ward has been suspended. Infection control measures have already been stepped up according to established guidelines. All other patients in the ward concerned are under close surveillance.

The cases have been reported to the Hospital Authority Head Office and the Centre for Health Protection for necessary follow-up. The hospitals will continue to closely monitor the situation of the ward.