<u>Public hospitals daily update on</u> <u>COVID-19 cases</u>

The following is issued on behalf of the Hospital Authority:

As at yesterday (December 8), a total of 3 404 patients who tested positive for COVID-19 are hospitalised for treatment. Among the hospitalised confirmed patients, 555 were new patients, 2 300 required isolation, 363 required oxygen therapy and 29 required ventilator support. There were nine newly reported critical patients and 17 newly reported serious patients. There were a total of 69 patients in critical condition and 96 in serious condition, of which 21 critical patients are receiving intensive care. Moreover, there were 382 patients who have recovered, including 326 patients who have been discharged. In addition, 23 patients who passed away in public hospitals were reported.

The overall occupancy of medical beds in acute hospitals is around 104 per cent.

In addition, nine patients in a male ward for severe intellectual disability of Siu Lam Hospital tested positive for COVID-19 since December 6, six of whom had symptoms. All infected patients are being treated in isolation and are in stable condition. Admission and visiting arrangements for the ward concerned have been suspended. Thorough cleaning and disinfection have been conducted in the areas concerned, while infection control measures have been enhanced.

The Hospital Authority will maintain close contact with the Centre for Health Protection to monitor the latest developments and to inform the public and healthcare workers on the latest information in a timely manner.