

Update on cluster of Candida auris cases in Kowloon Hospital

The following is issued on behalf of the Hospital Authority:

Regarding an earlier announcement on Candida auris carrier cases, the spokesperson for Kowloon Hospital gave the following update today (October 25):

Following a contact tracing investigation, three more male patients (aged 81 to 91) in the respiratory medicine ward were identified as carriers of Candida auris while not having signs of infection. One patient passed away due to his underlying illness. One patient has been discharged. The remaining patient is now being treated in isolation and is in stable condition.

The hospital will continue the contact tracing investigation of close contacts of the patients in accordance with the prevailing guidelines. A series of enhanced infection control measures have already been adopted to prevent the spread of Candida auris:

1. thorough cleaning and disinfection of the ward concerned;
2. enhanced admission screening for patients and environmental screening procedures; and
3. application of stringent contact precautions and enhanced hand hygiene of staff and patients.

The hospital will continue the enhanced infection control measures and closely monitor the situation of the ward concerned. The case has been reported to the Hospital Authority Head Office and the Centre for Health Protection of the Department of Health for necessary follow-up.