

Update on cluster of Candida auris cases in Kwong Wah Hospital

The following is issued on behalf of the Hospital Authority:

Regarding an earlier announcement on Candida auris carrier cases, the spokesperson for Kwong Wah Hospital (KWH) made the following announcement today (January 14):

Following a contact tracing investigation, one more male patient, aged 72, in an orthopedic ward of KWH, was identified as a carrier of Candida auris while not having signs of infection. The patient is now being treated in isolation and is in critical condition due to underlying medical conditions.

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 wards, including the environment and medical equipment;
2. enhanced medical surveillance of the patients and screening procedures for patients and environment in the wards; and
3. applied stringent contact precautions and enhanced hand hygiene of staff.

â€‹The cases have been reported to the Hospital Authority Head Office and the Centre for Health Protection for follow up.