

Update on investigation of suspected Mycobacterium abscessus infection cluster

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health (DH) today (November 13) provided an update on the investigation of the suspected Mycobacterium abscessus infection cluster. With the addition of one case, the suspected Mycobacterium abscessus infection cluster currently involves a total of 19 females.

The additional case, which was recorded through contact tracing of the CHP, involved a 22-year-old female. She had patronised Gals Glam Beauty and received injection to stimulate collagen production in September at a premises at 6/F, Hop Hing Industrial Building, 702-704 Castle Peak Road, Lai Chi Kok, and developed relevant symptoms after injection. Her clinical sample grew Mycobacterium abscessus and she is in stable condition.

The CHP appeals that persons who have patronised the premises [announced on November 7](#), or have arranged and received relevant injections via relevant Instagram social media accounts after which they presented with relevant symptoms, should seek medical attention and call the hotline immediately. Officers of the CHP will assess their condition and arrange for follow-ups as appropriate. The CHP has set up for the related cases an enquiry hotline (2125 2372) which will continue to operate from Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays) from 9am to 5.30pm to receive enquiries.

Based on information obtained in a preliminary investigation, the CHP cannot rule out the possibility of illegal medical practice. Investigations are ongoing.

The DH reminded members of the public that injection procedures should only be performed by a locally registered doctor. Customers should look for his or her full name against the [list of registered doctors](#) of the Medical Council of Hong Kong as well as his or her professional qualifications and relevant experience. The DH also urged the public to observe the health advice below before receiving injections:

- Understand the procedure, potential risks and complications before receiving injections. Consult a doctor for an informed decision;
- Do not receive an injection in the case of a history of allergy to the injection, or infection or inflammation on the injection site;
- Request the full name of the doctor in writing if referred by a beauty service provider for the procedure, as well as the professional qualifications and relevant experience; and
- If symptoms develop, such as fever or feeling unwell, seek medical attention immediately.

â€‹The public may visit the DH's webpage on the [differentiation between medical procedures and beauty services](#) for more information.