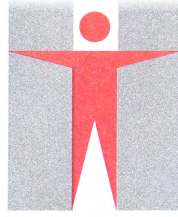


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THE GOVERNMENT OF THE HONG KONG
SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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本署檔號 Our Ref.: (53) in DHHQ/1055/30/6 Pt. 10

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14 February 2020

Dear health professionals,

Updated Situation of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

Further to our letter on 4 February 2020, we would like to provide you an update on the development of novel coronavirus infection and remind you to remain vigilant on the infection control measures.

On 11 February 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) named the novel coronavirus infection as COVID-19, short for “coronavirus disease 2019” according to WHO best practices for naming of new human infectious disease. Information on the number of cases reported in various countries/ areas is available on CHP’s designated webpage: https://www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/statistics_of_the_cases_novel_coronavirus_infection_en.pdf

As of 13 February 2020 4:30pm, Hong Kong has recorded 51 confirmed cases of COVID-19. Forty-one are in stable condition, three in serious condition, five in critical condition, one was discharged and one case died. The epidemiological investigation by the Centre for Health Protection (CHP) reviewed that majority of cases (35, 92%) reported since 1 February were local cases, possibly local cases, and their close contacts. Contact tracing and investigations for the confirmed cases are ongoing. The CHP has set up a hotline (2125 1122) to answer public enquiries.

*We build a healthy Hong Kong and
aspire to be an internationally renowned public health authority*

There is clear evidence of human-to-human transmission of novel coronavirus. Familial transmission is a hallmark of the recent cases recorded in Hong Kong. Also, some of the cases presented with mild symptoms only without obvious fever. Some cases had rapid deterioration after several days of illness. Hence, we would like to remind healthcare workers to remain vigilant when serving patients in healthcare setting. In addition, you are reminded to strictly adhere to appropriate infection prevention and control measures including carrying out temperature screening for patients/clients/visitors upon their arrival at your hospital/clinic. Those with fever or respiratory symptoms should be advised to wear a surgical mask.

Apart from personal and environmental hygiene, please advise your patients to maintain drainage pipes properly and regularly (about once a week) pour about half a litre of water into each drain outlet (U-traps) to ensure environmental hygiene. After using the toilet, they should put the toilet lid down before flushing to avoid spreading germs. Please share the above messages with your colleagues/ staff working in your institution.

For the latest information on COVID-19, please visit www.chp.gov.hk/en/features/102465.html .

Thank you very much for your support.

Yours sincerely,



(Dr Keiie SO)
for Director of Health