

香港特別行政區政府
衛生署
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THE GOVERNMENT OF THE HONG KONG
SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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02 June 2020

Dear health professionals,

Updated Situation of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

Further to our letter on 15 May 2020, we would like to provide you an update on the local situation of coronavirus disease-19 (COVID-19) and remind you to adhere to stringent infection control measures when serving patients/ clients.

As of 1 June 2020, a new local cluster involving five cases was identified. The first case affected a 34-year-old woman who had been admitted to hospital in critical condition requiring mechanical ventilation support. Epidemiological investigation by the Centre for Health Protection (CHP) revealed that her husband, two co-workers and an ambulance man who had transferred her to the hospital were tested positive for SARS-CoV-2. All of them did not have travel history outside Hong Kong within the incubation period. The CHP's investigation and contact tracing is ongoing.

This cluster, together with the earlier cluster involving three cases detected in mid-May, signifies that there are silent/ subclinical local transmissions going on in the community and the risk of major community outbreaks exists. In addition, some infected persons may present with mild or non-specific symptoms only, especially during the early stage of disease.

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

In this connection, we would like to remind healthcare workers to remain vigilant when serving your patients/clients. If you encounter patients/ clients with suspicious symptoms, please advise them to seek medical advice promptly for testing of COVID-19 as appropriate.

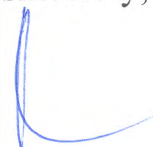
In general, staff in the clinic will not be considered as close contact if both the patients and staff wear surgical masks, the duration of consultation is short (less than 15 minutes) and there is no aerosol generating procedure performed in the clinic. Healthcare workers should adhere strictly to infection control measures at your hospital/ clinic all the times. Please refer to the guidelines published by the CHP for details –

- Recommended Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) in hospitals/ clinics under Serious/ Emergency Response Level Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) (Interim)
https://www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/recommended_ppe_for_nid_eng.pdf
- Key Elements on Prevention and Control of Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in Healthcare Settings (Interim)
https://www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/ic_advice_for_nid_in_healthcare_setting.pdf

Please share the above messages with your colleagues/ staff working in your institution. For the latest information on COVID-19, please visit <https://www.coronavirus.gov.hk/eng/index.html> .

Thank you very much for your support.

Yours sincerely,



(Dr Kellie SO)
for Director of Health