

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE HONG KONG SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH WU CHUNG HOUSE, 17TH & 21ST FLOORS, 213 QUEEN'S ROAD EAST, WANCHAI, HONG KONG

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14 February 2020

Dear chiropractors,

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_in fection_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.

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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 including carrying screening out temperature for measures 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 <u>www.chp.gov.hk/en/features/102465.html</u>.

Thank you very much for your support.

Yours sincerely,

(Dr Kellie SO) for Director of Health

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