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SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
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Dear health professionals,

### **Updated Situation of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)**

Further to our letter on 24 February 2020, we would like to provide you an update on the development of coronavirus disease-19 (COVID-19) in different countries and the issue of Red Outbound Travel Alert on Korea (also referred as “South Korea”) by the Government.

According to information from the health authority of Korea, there have been sharp increases in the daily number of confirmed cases since 19 February 2020, ranging from 51 to 352 cases per day. As of 9am on 24 February 2020, among 763 cases reported in Korea, the majority of the cases occurred in Daegu City (442, 57.9%), Gyeongbuk Province (186, 24.3%), Gyeonggi (35, 4.6%), Seoul (30, 3.9%), Gyeonnam (20, 2.6%) and Busan (17, 1.3%). Of note, in Daegu and Gyeongbuk, 456 cases were associated with Shincheonji Church of Jesus while 113 were associated with Cheongdo-gun Daenam Hospital. Other than Korea, community transmission was also occurring in some overseas countries such as Italy and Japan. Information on the number of cases reported in various countries/ areas is available on the designated website for COVID-19 : [https://www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/statistics\\_of\\_the\\_cases\\_novel\\_coronavirus\\_infection\\_en.pdf](https://www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/statistics_of_the_cases_novel_coronavirus_infection_en.pdf).

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aspire to be an internationally renowned public health authority*

In response to the latest situation, the Government has issued a Red Outbound Travel Alert (OTA) on Korea on 24 February 2020 as there may be great potential and risk of exposure through travel given the significant flow of people between Korea and Hong Kong. Starting from 25 February 2020 6am, Hong Kong residents returning to Hong Kong who have been to Daegu and Gyeongsanbuk-do in Korea in the past 14 days will be arranged to stay in quarantine centre for quarantine. Those returning from other cities and provinces of Korea will be required to undergo medical surveillance for 14 days.

We would like to remind healthcare workers to remain vigilant when serving patients with recent travel history to the Mainland China or Korea. Please advise them to consult a doctor promptly if they have a fever or other respiratory symptoms, and to inform the doctor of their recent travel history and any contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19. 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