

本署檔號 Our Ref. : (75) in DH CDB/9/12/6/4 Pt. 1

25 April 2025

Dear Doctor,

**Vigilance against Covid-19 in Hong Kong**

I would like to draw your attention to the recent upsurge of COVID-19 activity, which is expected to continue to increase in the coming few weeks, and enlist your support in the prevention of the disease.

According to the latest surveillance data as of the week ending April 19, the viral load of SARS-CoV-2 virus from sewage surveillance, the percentage of specimens tested positive for the virus and the average consultation rate of COVID-19 cases in general out-patient clinics have continued to rise over the past four weeks. In particular, the percentage of respiratory samples tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 virus increased to 8.21 per cent from 1.71 per cent four weeks ago (the week of March 16 to 22). Moreover, the viral load per capita of SARS-CoV-2 virus was around 440 000 copy/litre, significantly increased from 260 000 copy/litre four weeks ago. Sewage surveillance data on SARS-CoV-2 variants showed that KP.3 comprised 53.4% of all characterised specimens, while XDV accounted for 46.1%.

In the past four weeks (March 23 to April 19), the CHP recorded a total of 40 severe cases related to COVID-19 (including 10 fatal cases), with the majority of the patients being the elderly aged 65 or above. Of note, more than 90 per cent of them had not received COVID-19 vaccine in the past six months.

Your assistance is sought to advise your patients who have not received the initial dose of COVID-19 vaccine (including infants and children) to get vaccinated as soon as possible, and advise those at high risk to receive a booster dose as soon as possible for effective prevention against COVID-19 to minimise the risk of serious complications and death after infection. The following high-risk priority groups are recommended for receiving a booster dose at least six months after the last dose or last episode of COVID-19 (whichever is later), regardless of the number of doses received previously, to



enhance protection:

- older adults aged 50 or above, including those living in residential care homes;
- persons aged 18 to 49 years with underlying comorbidities;
- persons with immunocompromising conditions aged 6 months and above;
- pregnant women; and
- healthcare workers.

The Government has been providing private doctors with two COVID-19 oral drugs procured by the Hospital Authority for free prescription to eligible COVID-19 confirmed patients since April 2022. Private doctors who have registered under the Electronic Health Record Sharing System (eHRSS) can make requests for two COVID-19 oral drugs, Paxlovid and Molnupiravir, via the dedicated online platform <https://covidar.chp.gov.hk/>. Private doctors must follow the treatment guidelines set out by the Hospital Authority, which is available on the online platform. You may consider prescribing anti-viral treatment for COVID-19 patients according to the treatment guidelines as appropriate.

The latest surveillance data on COVID-19 are published in the weekly “COVID-19 & Flu Express” which is available on the CHP website (<https://www.chp.gov.hk/en/resources/29/100148.html>) and more information on COVID-19 can be found at <https://www.coronavirus.gov.hk/eng/index.html>. For details about the COVID-19 Vaccination Programme, please refer to the thematic page at <https://www.chp.gov.hk/en/features/106934.html>. May I take this opportunity to thank you for your continuous support in combating infectious diseases in Hong Kong.

Yours faithfully,



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for Controller, Centre for Health Protection