



**衛生防護中心**  
Centre for Health Protection

**Scientific Committee on Emerging and Zoonotic Diseases  
and  
Scientific Committee on Infection Control**

**Recommendations on prevention and control of novel  
coronavirus infection made during the joint meeting held on  
February 17, 2020**

A joint meeting of the Scientific Committee on Emerging and Zoonotic Diseases and the Scientific Committee on Infection Control under the Centre for Health Protection of the Department of Health was convened on February 17, 2020. Members have reached consensus on the following recommendations in the meeting based on the prevailing local and global situation of novel coronavirus infection:

- There is evidence of community transmission of COVID-19 in Hong Kong. In order to stop ongoing spread and prevent the disease from taking root locally, Hong Kong should continue to maintain the current strategy of isolating cases, quarantine of close contacts and medical surveillance of other contacts.
- As the outbreaks in Mainland China continue to be propagated, the existing measures to minimise the population movements between Hong Kong SAR and Mainland China should remain in place and be periodically assessed.
- In view of the existing data on the incubation period of COVID-19, the quarantine period for close contacts is recommended to be 14 days. The close contacts should be quarantined in designated quarantine facilities for the first 10 days, while they can be put under home quarantine for the remaining 4 days on a case-by-case basis.



- The whole society should be mobilised to continue to strengthen social distancing measures, personal hygiene (e.g. hand hygiene, cough manner, wearing a mask when having fever or respiratory symptom, etc.) and environmental hygiene measures as far as practicable.
- As some of the cases of COVID-19 present with mild symptoms, in order to detect mild cases in the community and to have a better understanding of the epidemiological situation, the enhanced surveillance is recommended to be expanded from inpatient to outpatient settings.

## **Centre for Health Protection**

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