

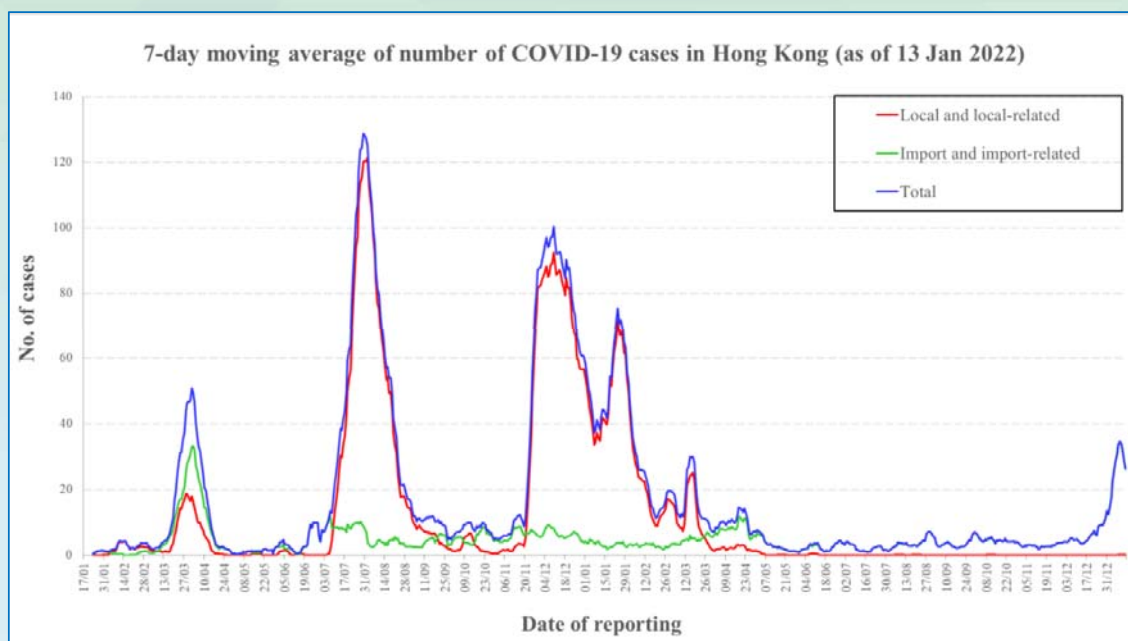
全民同心抗疫 確保「通關」有期

Fight the Virus Together to Resume Travel



Hong Kong SAR Government

Navigating through the Epidemic in the Past Two Years



Note: As of January 14, the total number of cases tested positive in Hong Kong was 13 025, ranking behind more than 170 countries or regions; the total numbers of confirmed cases and of deaths per million population were 1 761 and 28 respectively, both being about 4% of the global average



Hong Kong SAR Government

Making Every Effort to Curb the Spread of Omicron in the Community

- The first local case (“Moon Palace”) arising from an imported case appeared on December 30, 2021 (announced by the Centre for Health Protection at 10 p.m.)
- The first local case initially classified as a case with an unknown source of infection (surveyor living in Tuen Mun) appeared on January 4, 2022. The case was preliminarily tested positive on January 4 and confirmed the next day. The Centre for Health Protection tentatively classified the case as one with an unknown source of infection and later announced that it belonged to the “Six Garden Restaurant” infection cluster upon epidemiological investigation.
- In the past week (January 7 to 13):
 - Imported cases: down from 184 cases to 141 cases
 - Cases epidemiologically linked with imported case: up from 17 cases to 42 cases
 - The route of transmission is not yet known for one local case (supermarket tally worker)



Making Every Effort to Curb the Spread of Omicron in the Community (Cont'd)

- Conducted over 1.1 million nucleic acid tests:
 - Issued compulsory testing notices (CTNs) for over 460 locations
 - Made over 30 restriction-testing declarations (RTDs) on residential buildings
 - Over 90 000 citizens underwent testing at testing centres after receiving notifications from the “LeaveHomeSafe” mobile app
 - Carried out voluntary testing in Tuen Mun district
- Stepped up case tracing and compulsory quarantine. More than 4 700 people have been arranged to stay in quarantine centres
- Took prompt, precise and resolute actions, e.g.
 - Invoked the place-specific flight suspension mechanism for eight countries (announced on January 5; took effect on January 8)
 - Extensively tightened social distancing measures (announced on January 5; took effect on January 7)
 - Suspended face-to-face classes of primary schools, kindergartens, child care centres and kindergarten-cum-child care centres (announced on January 11; took effect on January 14)



Making Every Effort to Curb the Spread of Omicron in the Community (Cont'd)

- Results achieved thus far:
 - 59 confirmed cases epidemiologically linked with imported cases (at least 29 cases involving Omicron) and one local confirmed case (supermarket tally worker), with no large-scale outbreak so far
 - About 60% of the confirmed cases above detected in quarantine centres
 - All local confirmed cases upon completion of whole genome sequencing analysis proven to have originated from the two imported cases
 - Public traffic reduced significantly by 30% (with reference to the patronage of major public transport)



Latest Assessment

- The epidemic situation is not yet under control, with a risk of outbreak still
 - Two recent cases involve suspected vertical transmission in the buildings
 - As for the current two infection clusters:
 - there is obviously more than one super-spreader
 - many confirmed cases involve persons unvaccinated
 - there is a sixth-generation spread of the virus within two weeks
 - some infected persons with relevant symptoms developed did not undergo testing immediately but moved around in the community, hence the possibility of silent transmission chain(s) in the community
 - In Hong Kong, only about 30% of local patients infected with Omicron are asymptomatic upon admission to hospital, a significantly lower rate than in places overseas



Measures Announced

- Tightened social distancing measures originally taking effect from January 7 to 20 will be extended for 14 days until February 3 (third day of Lunar New Year)
- Large-scale events (including Lunar New Year fairs, Festival Fair, Chinese New Year Celebrations of Hong Kong Tourism Board) will be cancelled
- The place-specific flight suspension mechanism for eight countries originally implemented from January 8 to 21 will be extended for 14 days until February 4
- After the Chinese New Year, unless there is a clear about-turn or outbreak of the epidemic, restrictions on operation of premises will be gradually relaxed on the basis of pioneering "vaccine bubble" (earlier than February 24)
- A fifth round of Anti-epidemic Fund (AEF 5.0) will be rolled out



Anti-epidemic Fund 5.0

- Being prompt:
 - Tightened social distancing measures on January 7 and announced AEF measures today (January 14), hence only one week involved (cf. two months for AEF 3.0 and one month for AEF 4.0)
 - A majority of the subsidy measures will be open to applications from next week onwards, with a view to subsidy disbursement around the Lunar New Year
 - Total commitment is about \$3.57 billion
- Being targeted:
 - Premises and persons directly affected by the latest round of tightened social distancing measures (catering outlets, beauty parlours, fitness centres, registered sports coaches, individual arts practitioners, etc.)
 - Trades “frozen” for a long time due to the as-of-yet resumed flow of people between Hong Kong and other places (tourism and cross-boundary passenger transport trades)
- Subsidies to be disbursed to eligible premises and individuals will adopt AEF 4.0 as the blueprint, with streamlined procedures put in place



Anti-epidemic Fund 5.0 (con't)

- On subsidy amounts, whilst the current restricted period is four weeks, as compared with 44 to 65 days under AEF 3.0 and 57 to 158 days under AEF 4.0, the subsidies to be disbursed to premises and individuals will be half and two-thirds of AEF 4.0 amounts respectively
- Example: Amounts for catering premises based on the licensed area, with an additional subsidy if a liquor licence is at hand
 - Not exceeding 100 square metres: \$50,000
 - >100 square metres – 200 square metres: \$100,000(Details to be announced by press release)



Anti-epidemic Fund 5.0 (con't)

- Under Labour and Welfare Bureau: Target child care centres and tutors of interest groups
- Under Education Bureau: Target institutions and individuals affected by suspension of face-to-face classes
- Under Commerce and Economic Development Bureau: Target the tourism trade
- Under Transport and Housing Bureau: Support aviation support services companies, cross-boundary coaches, ferries, hire cars
- Measures relating to cancellation of Lunar New Year fairs and food festival



Continue to Enhance Hong Kong's Testing Capacity

- The current daily testing capacity of 100 000 tests or above can be maintained continuously
 - 18 Community Testing Centres across Hong Kong
 - Around 40 Mobile Specimen Collection Stations (including those specially set up to tie in with testing operations in various districts such as Tuen Mun)
- Individuals who perceive themselves as having a relatively high risk of exposure can take tests at Community Testing Centres and Mobile Specimen Collection Stations in different districts to help cut silent transmission chain(s) in the community



Continue to Enhance Hong Kong's Vaccination Capacity

- With two more Community Vaccination Centres (CVCs) coming into service on January 26, the vaccination capacity will be increased to 1.77 million doses per month, or 59 000 doses per day on average, representing an increase of 75% compared with January 1 and an increase of about 30% compared with today:
 - 13 Hospital COVID-19 Vaccination Stations
 - 2 Mobile Vaccination Stations which shuttle between housing estates and locations
 - the Hospital Authority's designated general out-patient clinics to be increased gradually from two to 25
 - Over 1 000 private doctors or clinics
 - Service points operated by private healthcare institutions to be increased from 24 to 26
 - 15 Elderly Health Centres under the Department of Health
 - 10 CVCs will be increased to 14, of which Education Bureau Kowloon Tong Education Services Centre and Kowloon Bay Sports Centre will come into service on January 21 and Sun Yat Sen Memorial Park Sports Centre and Boundary Street Sports Centre on January 26



Protect Yourself and Others

Fight the Virus Together

- Maintain personal hygiene and wear a mask
- Constantly monitor the health conditions of yourself and family members and pay attention to places visited by patients of new cases announced by the Government; conduct tests as soon as possible if you have visited the places in the same period
- Reduce social contact, including cross-family festive gatherings, and maintain social distance
- Avoid visiting crowded places
- Adhere strictly to CTNs and RTDs
- Get vaccinated as soon as possible



Thank you



Hong Kong SAR Government