



3 June 2020

Dear Fellows,

Hong Kong has had a few good weeks from COVID-19 in May with sporadic local cases. Unfortunately, however, a new cluster of locally-acquired cases have been reported in recent days, and it has been suggested that at least one of the infected may be a ‘super-spreader’. Having endured the outbreak for nearly 5 months, it is understandable that we all feel a little fatigued. But we are not quite there yet and this is not a time for complacency.

Hong Kong has emerged from the first few months of the COVID-19 pandemic with probably some of the best patient outcomes in terms of complication and mortality rates in the world. We must keep up our efforts in safeguarding the health of our people in Hong Kong. To reduce the risk of local outbreaks, particularly as a result of silent or subclinical transmission in the community, casting a wider net of COVID-19 testing will allow early detection and containment of the infection. Much is being done within the Hospital Authority and Department of Health premises. I write to urge our private practitioner Fellows to also take up this very important role to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.

As recommended by the Centre for Health Protection (CHP), may I remind you to arrange COVID-19 testing for all patients presenting with any symptoms, irrespective of severity, that are suspicious of the infection. The test is free and can be directly requested through the CHP’s Public Health Laboratory Services Branch without the need to go through a private laboratory. The result will be returned to you via fax. To facilitate COVID-19 testing, the Department of Health will provide specimen bottles upon request and has extended the specimen collection points to more locations. For more details, please refer to CHP website and its recent letters to doctors.

<https://www.chp.gov.hk/en/healthprofessionals/31/index.html>

https://www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/letters_to_doctors_20200519.pdf

Let me once again take this opportunity to express my gratitude to you for your dedication and professionalism throughout this first half of the year. The recent re-emergence of local COVID-19 cases reminds us of the volatility of this epidemic. The virus knows no boundaries and impacts on all of us, irrespective of our discipline! Let us remain vigilant and work together until the battle is won.

Yours sincerely,
Professor CS Lau
President
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