



For Immediate Release

HKSH Tightens Screening and Visiting Policies for Patients and Visitors

(1 December 2020, Hong Kong) HKSH Medical Group has been preparing for infectious disease outbreak in the community since SARS in 2003. It has also been closely monitoring the novel coronavirus pandemic from early this year. During the recent surge of COVID-19 cases, there were reports of patients/visitors failure to disclose their history of close contact.

Between 28-30 November, 3200 staff members and in-house doctors had undergone COVID-19 antigen screening. All results were negative. Staff and doctors will be tested on a regular basis.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, “Antigen screening for SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) is intended to identify infected persons who are asymptomatic and without known /suspected exposure to SARS-CoV-2.”

Currently, the policy for all inpatients required to be tested negative in COVID-19 RT-PCR test within 3 days before admission remains unchanged. As an additional measure, RT-PCR tests will be repeated for long stay patients during their stay.

Effective from 2 December, all visitors must undergo COVID-19 antigen screening prior to visiting in-patients and the screening is to be repeated at regular interval. Positive antigen screening test results will be followed by RT-PCR test for SARS-CoV-2 virus for further confirmation.

In addition to the existing precautionary measures, mandatory COVID-19 antigen screening for outpatients receiving procedures that require removal of masks will be implemented shortly.

We have been doing RT-PCR tests for diagnostic use and travelling certification purposes for months. “HKSH is prepared to fight this COVID-19 pandemic. Safeguarding the health and safety of our patients and staff members is our priority. We have capacity for additional RT-PCR tests.” Mr. Wyman LI, Chief Operating Officer of HKSH Medical Group, announced that as a socially responsible organization, the Group will absorb the costs for the mandatory screening regime.