

## **Three RPG Students Outside of Hong Kong have been Confirmed Positive for COVID-19**

Sunday, Jan 16, 2022, 18:54PM

Dear Members of the University,

We were informed last night by an Ocean Science (OCES) faculty member that three OCES research postgraduate students (RPGs) who are currently in Guam, were found to be infected by the COVID-19 Omicron variant. The three students left Hong Kong on 4 January 2022 for a research trip. One of them was confirmed positive on 13 January, the other two on 15 January, and they are currently hospitalized in Guam.

Due to the relatively shorter incubation period of the Omicron variant, typically a few days, and the fact that the three RPGs left Hong Kong 12 days ago, it seems more likely they were infected during traveling. However, we could not completely rule out the possibility that they were infected while in Hong Kong. Therefore, the following actions have been or will be taken:

- Two of the RPGs live in single rooms in student halls. Common areas and relevant wings of Hall 4 and E Wing of Global Graduate Tower will be specially cleaned by CMO today.
- The three RPGs sit and work in Cheng Yu Tung Building Rm 5001. Special cleaning will also be arranged for that room later today or tomorrow.
- Members who are concerned may take a COVID-19 test by getting a free rapid test kit from the Security Control Center.

If the Government Department of Health contact the University to follow up these overseas confirmed cases, we will notify the concerned units and individuals accordingly.

The Omicron variant is spreading fast around the globe, we should all continue to be vigilant in protecting ourselves and our families. The COVID-19 vaccine can protect us from developing serious symptoms and reduce the chance of hospitalization. Those who are yet to receive vaccination, and those eligible for a booster dose should do so as soon as possible.

Do take care and stay well,

T.C. Pong, Vice President for Administration and Business

Samuel Yu, Director of Health, Safety and Environment