

(1) For minor children undergoing hospital isolation or staying at quarantine centres with their parents, is it possible for them not to be separate from their parents?

In general, confirmed patients will be admitted to negative pressure rooms for isolation and treatment. If the children of confirmed cases are also confirmed infected, hospitals will make an assessment based on the clinical condition of each case to decide whether the patients will be admitted to the same negative pressure cubicle. For minor children staying at quarantine centres with their parents, the Department of Health will arrange them to stay at the same unit for quarantine.

(2) For minor children with their parents admitted to hospitals for confirmed COVID-19, will they be transferred to the Social Welfare Department for supervision if they have no other relatives in Hong Kong?

(3) For minor children with their parents admitted to hospitals for isolation because of confirmed COVID-19, will they be allowed to stay at home for quarantine so that they will be cared by relatives or domestic helpers?

Close contacts who are asymptomatic but may have been exposed to the risk of contracting COVID-19 are required to stay at quarantine centres for a 14-day compulsory quarantine. For minor children with their parents admitted to hospitals for confirmed COVID-19, they are generally considered close contacts and required to stay at quarantine centres for compulsory quarantine.

Regarding the arrangement of minor children who are considered close contacts and required to stay at quarantine centres, the Department of Health will make an assessment on a case-by-case basis and contact their parents or guardians with a view to arranging carers to accompany with the minor children concerned at quarantine centres. If the minor children are not accompanied by carers, healthcare workers of the Department of Health will make an assessment and arrange the minor children concerned to stay at quarantine centres for quarantine on their own after obtaining written approval of their parents. The Department of Health will also consult with the Social Welfare Department for providing necessary assistance.

(4) For minor children staying at quarantine centres for a 14-day

compulsory quarantine, can they be brought back by their relatives if their parents are still at hospitals?

Minor children completing the quarantine may be brought back and cared by their relatives under the approval of their parents who are still at the hospitals.

(5) Has the Government set up a 24-hour hotline to provide consultation, co-ordination, psychological counselling or referring services for families and carers of confirmed cases?

In view of the epidemic situation of COVID-19, the Department of Health has set up a number of hotlines to provide consultation services for the public, including three 24-hour hotlines to answer relevant health questions and provide medical support for persons under compulsory home quarantine and two hotlines (currently operating from 9am to 10pm, subject to change according to prevailing epidemic situation) for providing health information on COVID-19 for the public. The Social Welfare Department will also provide necessary assistance for persons under quarantine.

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