

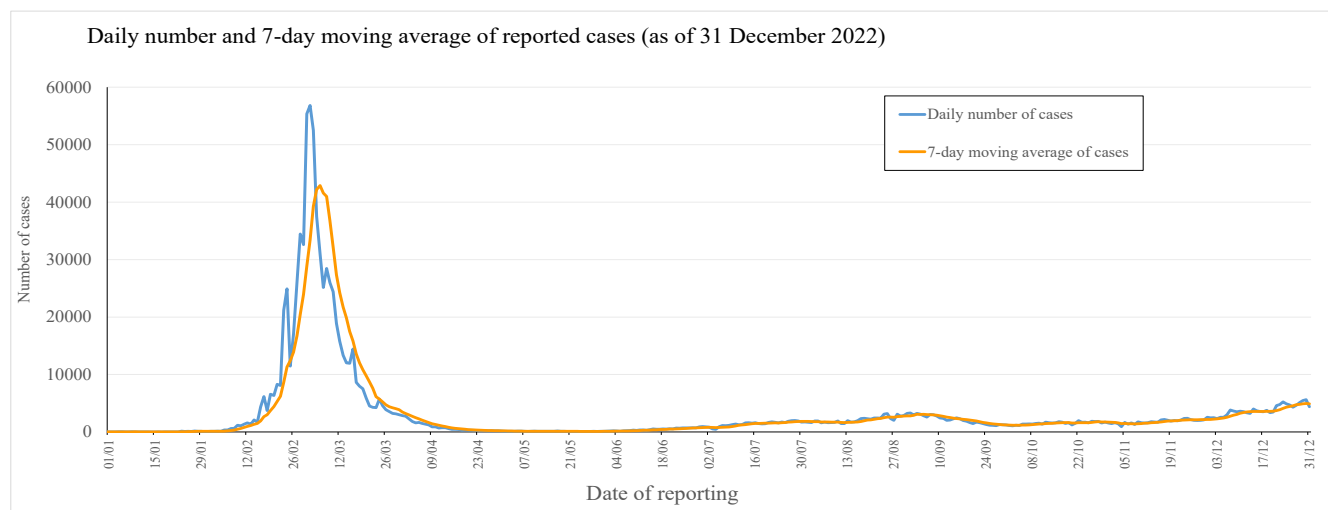
## **Latest situation of COVID-19 (as of 31 December 2022)**

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health (DH) today (31 December) announced the latest epidemic situation of COVID-19. As of 0.00am, 31 December 2022, the CHP was investigating 28783 additional locally acquired cases tested positive for the SARS-CoV-2 virus, including 4183 cases tested positive by nucleic acid tests and 24600 cases tested positive by rapid antigen tests (RATs) in the past 24 hours. Separately, 424 additional imported cases were reported, including 210 cases tested positive by nucleic acid tests and 214 cases tested positive by RATs. So far, Hong Kong has recorded a total of 1172669 and 1452964 cases tested positive by nucleic acid tests and RATs respectively for the SARS-CoV-2 virus.

Since the 5th wave (31 December 2021), 1160038 cases and 1452964 cases were tested positive by nucleic acid tests and rapid antigen tests respectively.

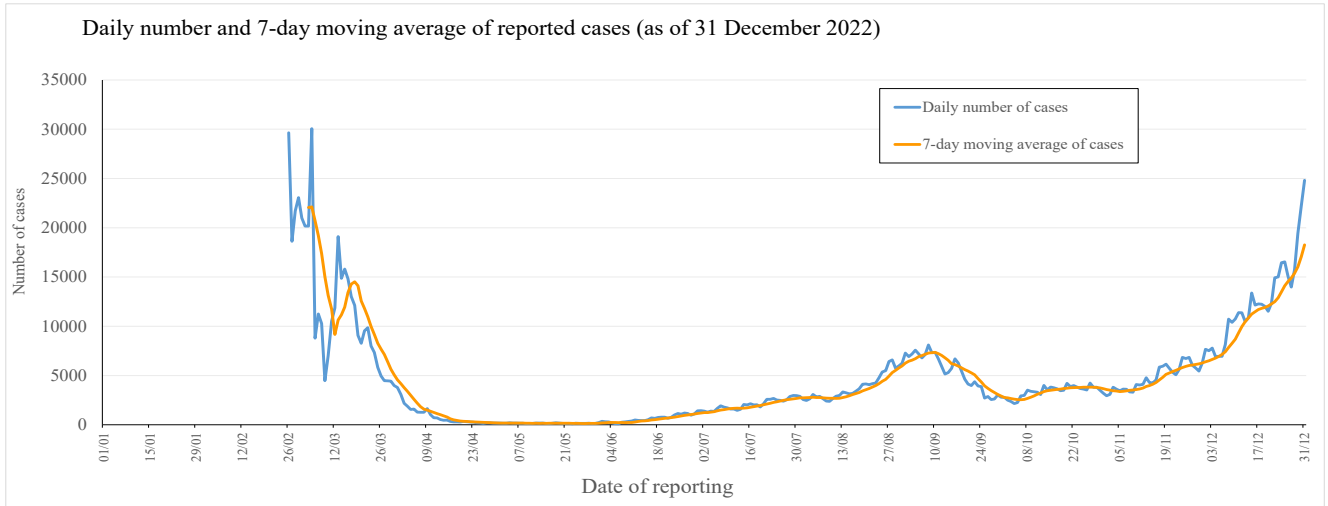
In the recent 7-day period from 25 to 31 December 2022, an average of 4896.4 cases by nucleic acid tests were reported per day, as compared with 4306.9 cases per day reported in the previous 7-day period from 18 to 24 December 2022 (Figure 1(i)).

**Figure 1(i): Daily number and 7-day moving average of cases tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 virus by nucleic acid tests in 2022**



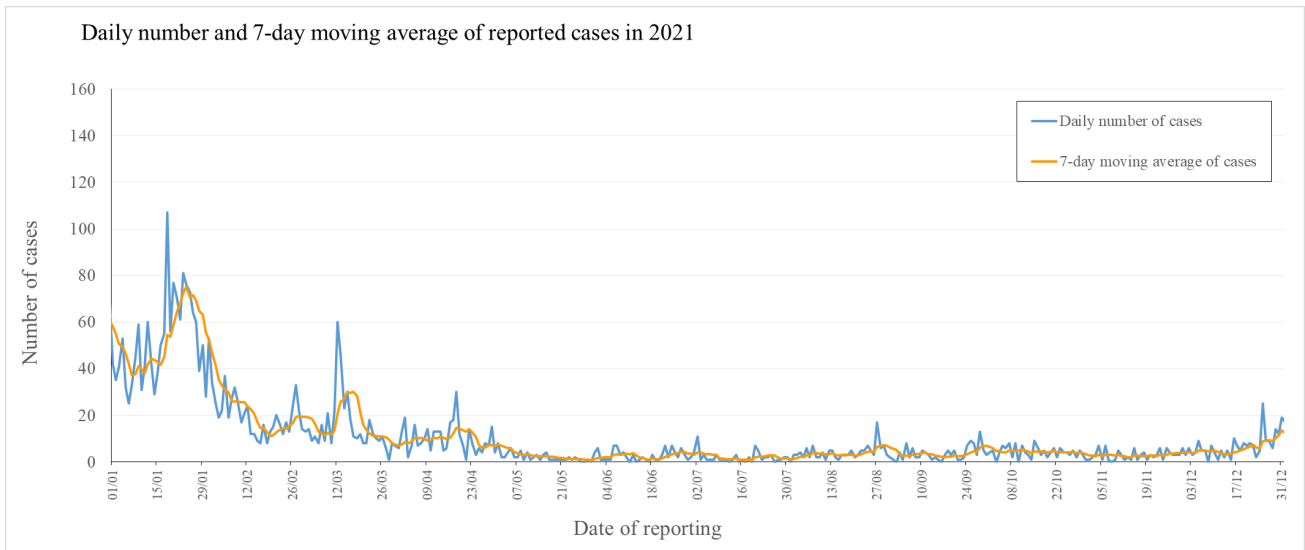
Note: Re-positive cases are excluded in Figure 1(i).

**Figure 1(ii): Daily number and 7-day moving average of cases tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 virus by rapid antigen tests**



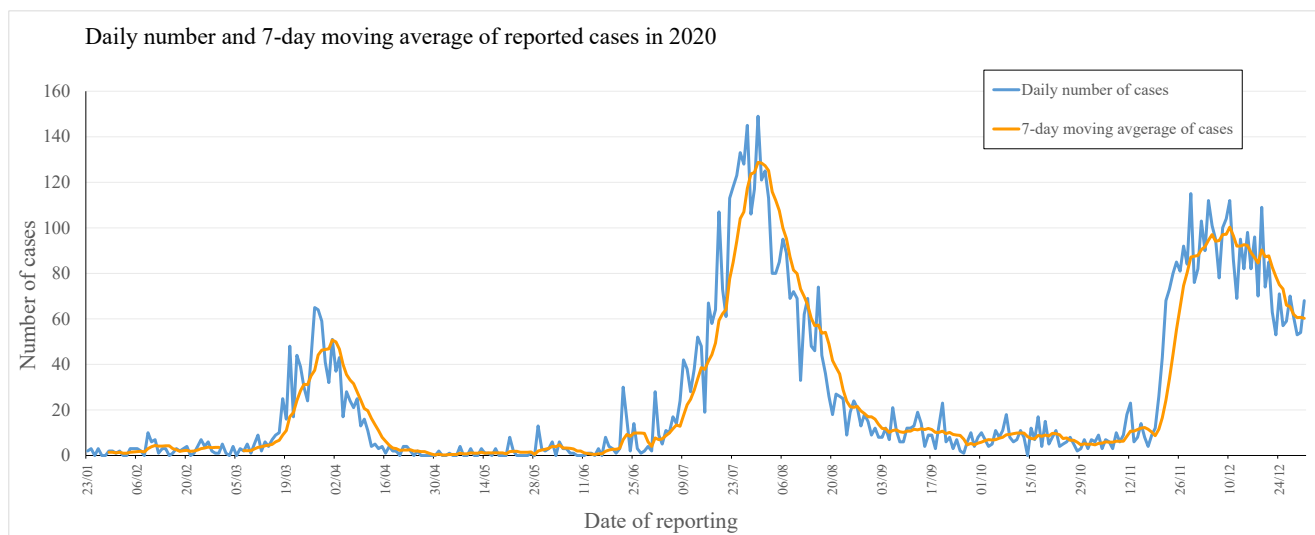
Note: Re-positive cases are excluded in Figure 1(ii).

**Figure 1(iii): Daily number and 7-day moving average of cases tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 virus by nucleic acid tests in 2021**



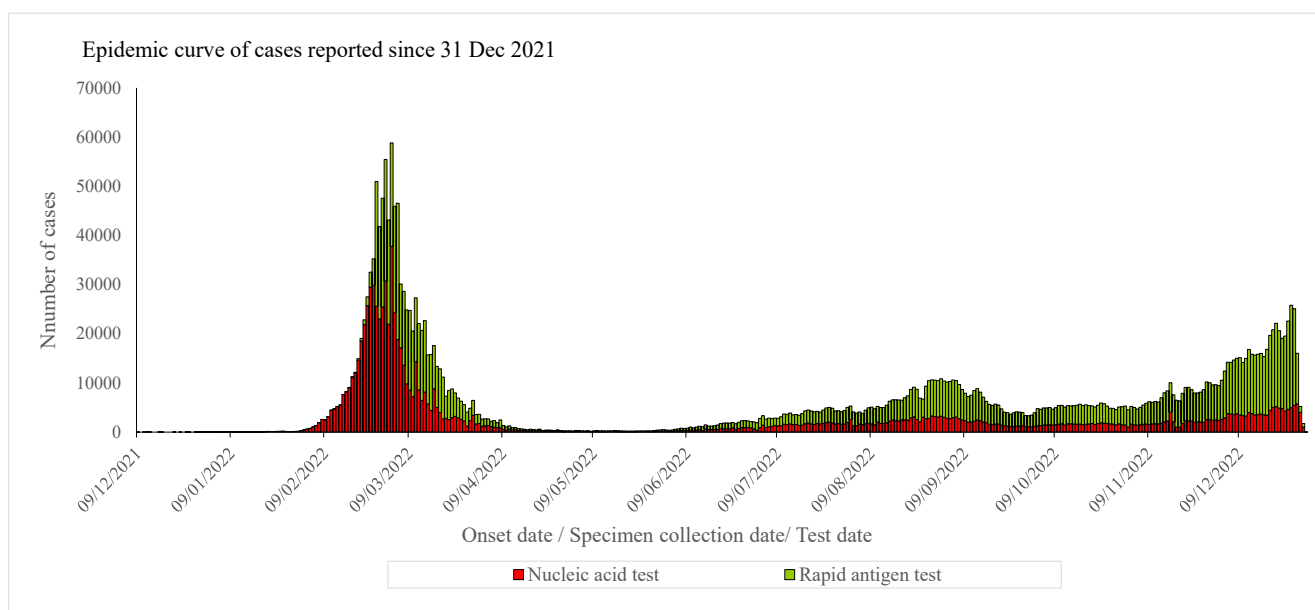
Note: Re-positive cases are excluded in Figure 1(iii).

**Figure 1(iv): Daily number and 7-day moving average of cases tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 virus by nucleic acid tests in 2020**



Note: Re-positive cases are excluded in Figure 1(iv).

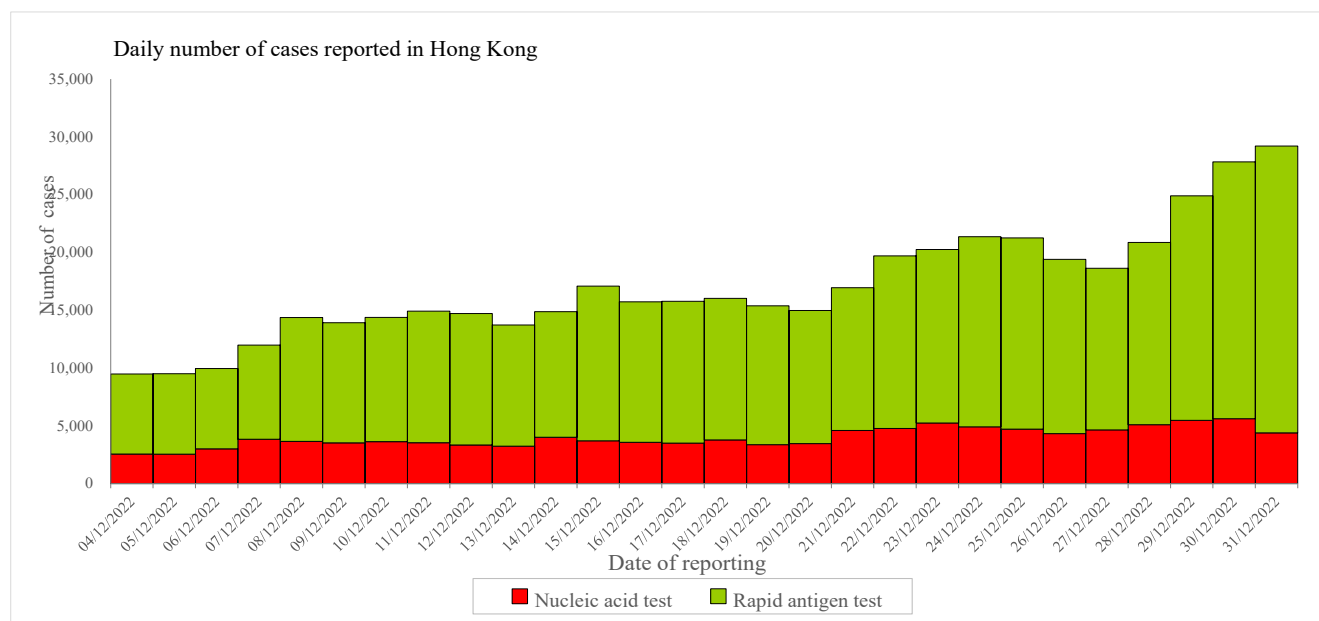
**Figure 2: Epidemic curve of cases tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 virus in Hong Kong since 31 December 2021**



Note:

1. Specimen collection dates are used for cases without information of onset dates.
2. Cases still under investigation are excluded in Figure 2.
3. Starting from 29 August 2022, the CHP only verifies cases reported via the "Declaration System for individuals tested positive for COVID-19 using Rapid Antigen Test" by sampling with nucleic acid test.

**Figure 3: Daily number of cases tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 virus reported in the past 4 weeks**



Note:

Starting from 29 August 2022, the CHP only verifies cases reported via the "Declaration System for individuals tested positive for COVID-19 using Rapid Antigen Test" by sampling with nucleic acid test.

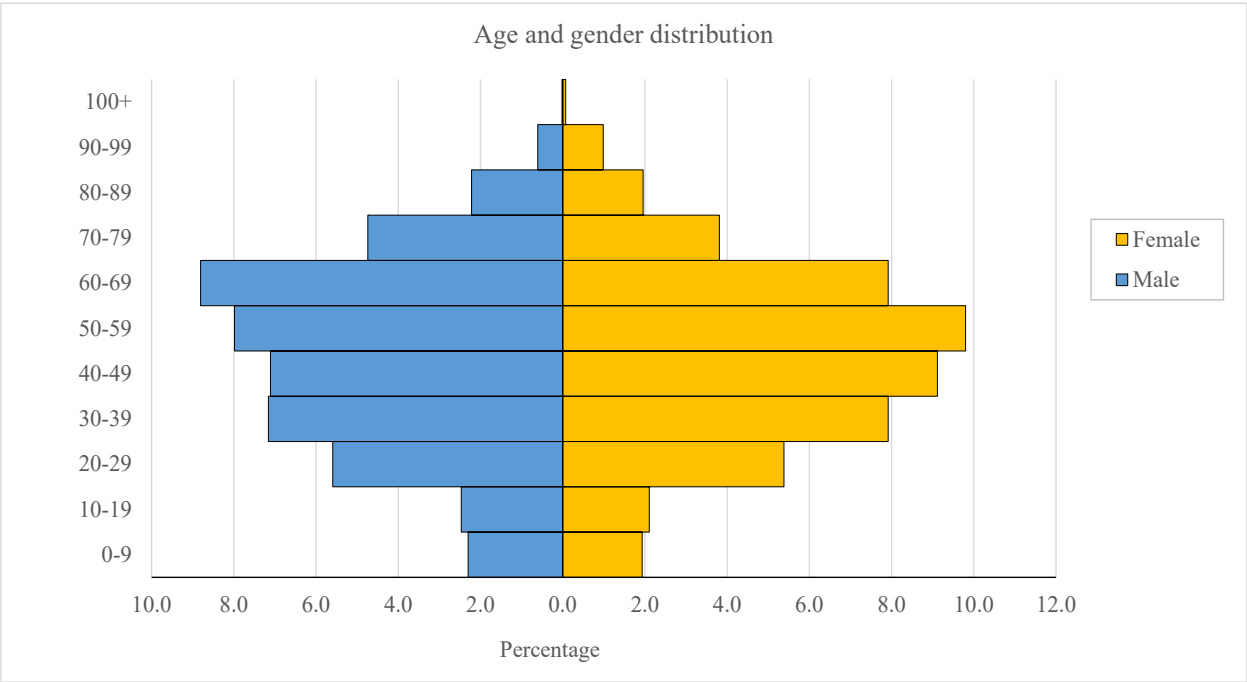
Table 1 shows the classification of cases reported since the 5<sup>th</sup> wave (since 31 December 2021).

**Table 1: Number of cases tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 virus by nucleic acid tests and rapid antigen tests by classification**

Reporting period	Imported case	Locally acquired case	Period total
Since the 5th wave	75773 (2.90%)	2537229 (97.10%)	2613002 (100.00%)
In the past 4 weeks			
4/12/2022 - 10/12/2022	4893 (5.85%)	78709 (94.15%)	83602 (100.00%)
11/12/2022 - 17/12/2022	5543 (5.19%)	101263 (94.81%)	106806 (100.00%)
18/12/2022 - 24/12/2022	6371 (5.11%)	118289 (94.89%)	124660 (100.00%)
25/12/2022 - 31/12/2022	6671 (4.12%)	155405 (95.88%)	162076 (100.00%)

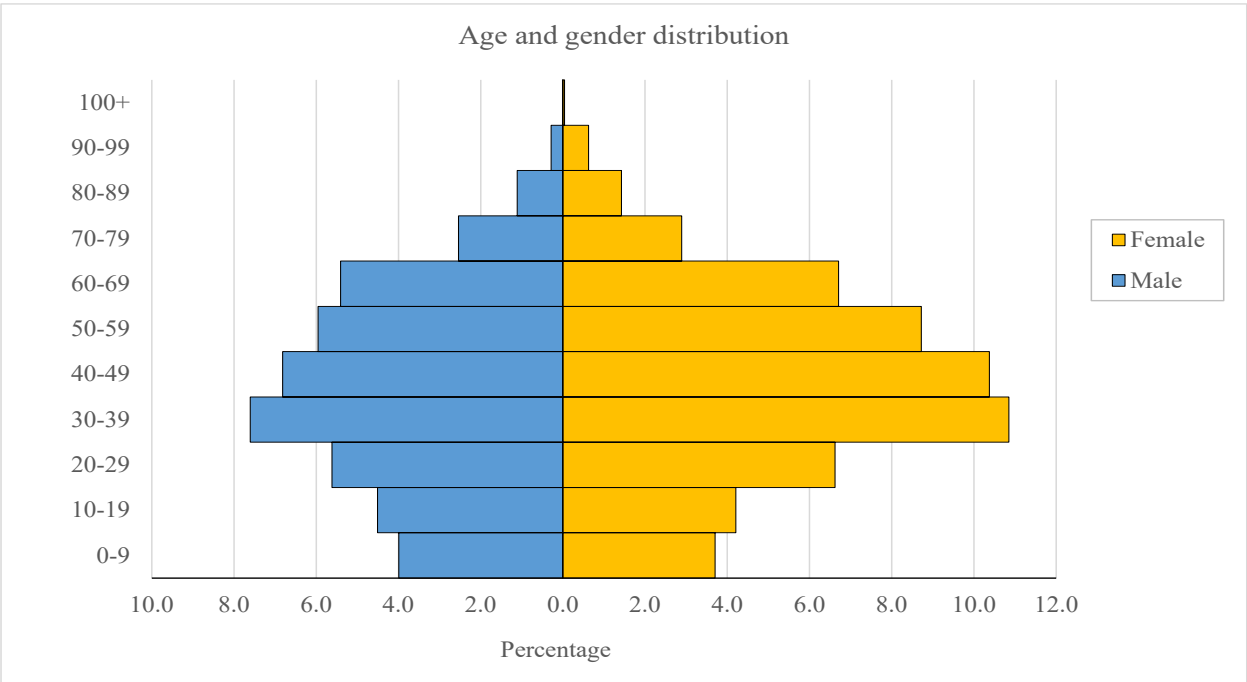
Figure 4 shows the age and gender distribution of the cases (since the 5<sup>th</sup> wave).

**Figure 4(i): Age and gender distribution of cases tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 virus by nucleic acid tests in Hong Kong**



Note: Re-positive cases and cases pending investigation are excluded in Figure 4(i).

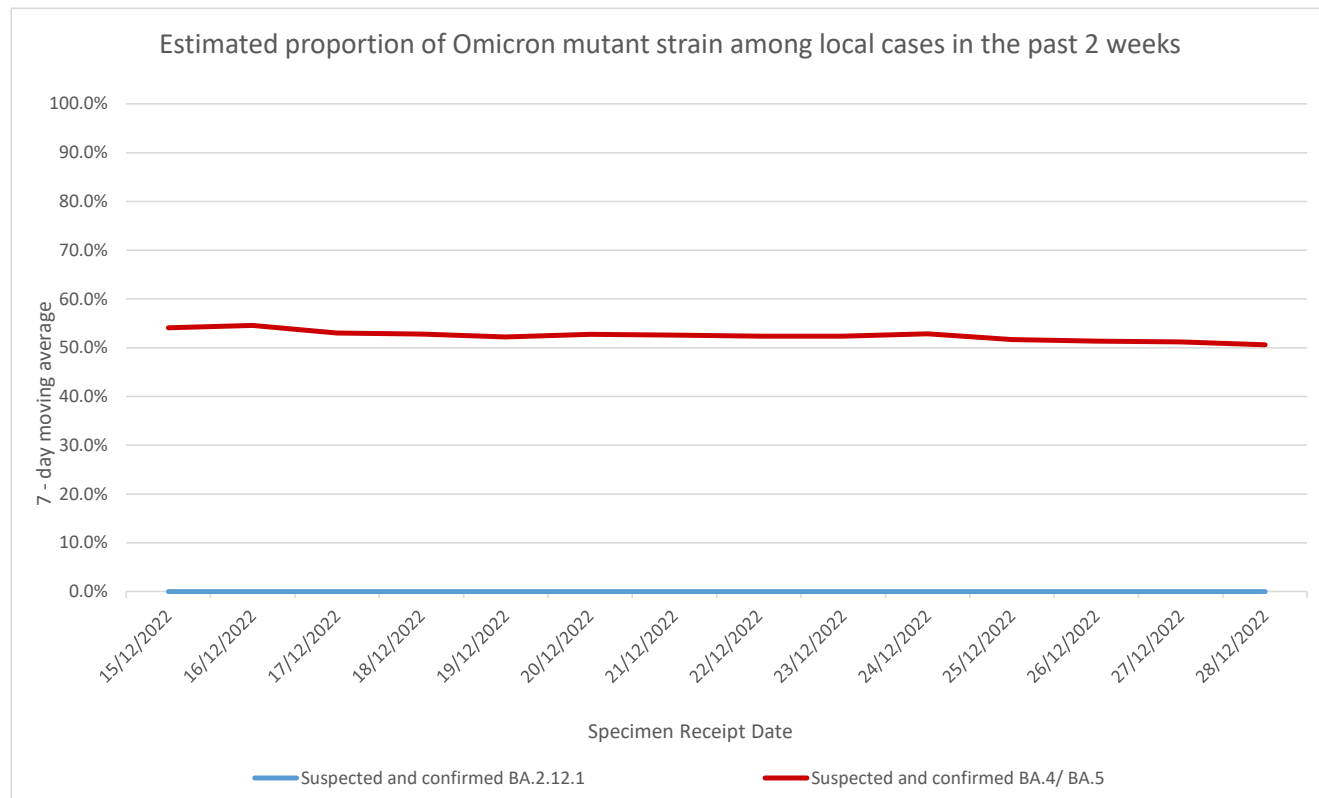
**Figure 4(ii): Age and gender distribution of cases tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 virus by rapid antigen tests in Hong Kong**



Source of data: Data from the Centre for Health Protection of the Department of Health with available information on age and gender.

Among the specimens received by the Public Health Laboratory Services Branch (PHLSB) during 22 to 28 December for verification testing of local cases, about 0% and 50.59% of them (7-day moving average) are related to the sub-lineages BA.2.12.1 and BA.4/BA.5\* (including suspected cases) of the Omicron mutant strain respectively.

**Figure 5: Estimated proportion of Omicron mutant strain among local cases in the past 2 weeks**



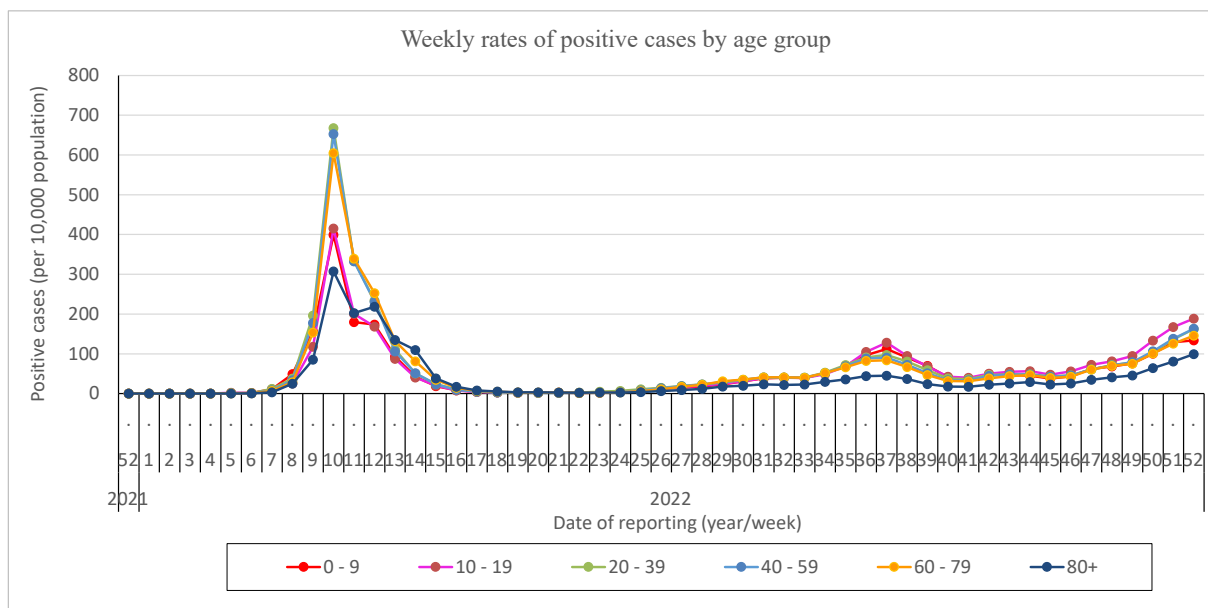
Note:

1. Related percentages are estimated from the specimens received by the PHLSB for verification testing of local cases.
2. Data may be subject to changes when there is new information available.

\*Based on sampling by PHLSB for further characterisation, among specimens related to BA.4/BA.5 received from 19 - 25 December 2022, 88.7% were BA.5. (to be updated weekly)

In addition, as of 0.00am, 31 December, PHLSB had identified 226 cases of sub-lineage XBB, 6 of XBD, 8 of BA.2.75.2, 7 of BA.4.6, 13 of BF.7 and 38 of BQ.1.1 among imported cases in Hong Kong, while 165 cases of sub-lineage XBB, 18 of XBD, 1 of BA.2.75.2, 12 of BF.7 and 192 of BQ.1.1 have also been detected among local cases.

**Figure 6: Weekly rates of positive cases tested by nucleic acid tests and rapid antigen tests (by age group) since the 5<sup>th</sup> wave**



Note:

1. Both imported and re-positive cases are excluded in Figure 6.
2. Data in Figure 6 may be subject to changes when there is new information available.
3. Figure 6 (with data as of the preceding week) will be updated every Tuesday.

**Table 2: Incidences of cases tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 virus by nucleic acid tests and rapid antigen tests by residential districts in 2022**

Region	Cumulative Incidence	District	Cumulative Incidence	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Hong Kong	2329.8	Central and Western	2003.8	217.4	139.2	198.8	333.7
		Wan Chai	1809.1	213.7	146.2	166.2	279.6
		Eastern	2553.8	285.2	191.4	240.8	401.3
		Southern	2503.5	265.2	187.5	239.5	361.0
Kowloon	2823.1	Kowloon City	2468.3	258.0	166.5	217.5	395.3
		Kwun Tong	3105.4	294.8	180.7	221.4	425.2
		Sham Shui Po	2737.4	238.6	140.8	192.5	369.9
		Wong Tai Sin	3055.3	284.8	162.9	227.0	407.0
		Yau Tsim Mong	2489.6	206.0	148.8	187.1	341.8
New Territories East	2783.9	Islands	2319.7	234.3	156.8	234.1	366.8
		North	2949.1	340.7	197.8	291.5	509.8
		Sai Kung	2695.1	334.8	194.6	255.6	453.2
		Sha Tin	2905.7	330.1	184.6	241.9	470.6
		Tai Po	2764.5	298.2	185.3	291.1	413.7
New Territories West	2839.1	Kwai Tsing	2927.4	241.5	149.6	209.0	378.8
		Tsuen Wan	2689.7	273.4	183.0	244.6	416.7
		Tuen Mun	2993.8	280.7	169.9	266.9	445.6
		Yuen Long	2729.0	301.0	174.6	241.8	435.4

Note:

1. Cases with multiple/ pending/ unknown residential address are excluded in Table 2.
2. Data in Table 2 are shown as number of cases per 10,000 population.
3. Table 2 (with data as of the preceding week) will be updated every Tuesday.

**Table 3 : Number of cases tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 virus reported  
among schools in the past 4 weeks**

Reporting Period	No. of schools with case(s) reported	No. tested positive reported by schools	
		Student	Staff
27/11/2022 - 03/12/2022	1466	6741	1325
04/12/2022 - 10/12/2022	1594	9969	1835
11/12/2022 - 17/12/2022	1607	11431	2018
18/12/2022-24/12/2022	1284	7808	1528

Note:

1. Number of schools is deduplicated based on the reporting week.
2. Table 3 (with data as of the preceding week) will be updated every Tuesday.

**Table 4 : Number of cases tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 virus reported  
among residential care homes (RCHs) in the past 4 weeks**

Reporting Period	No. of RCHs with case(s) reported	No. tested positive reported by RCHs	
		Resident	Staff
27/11/2022 - 03/12/2022	119	181	22
04/12/2022 - 10/12/2022	197	292	41
11/12/2022 - 17/12/2022	365	1969	1032
18/12/2022 – 24/12/2022	494	3447	1451

Note:

1. Number of RCHs is deduplicated based on the reporting week.
2. Table 4 (with data as of the preceding week) will be updated every Tuesday.



Since 31 December 2019, the CHP of the DH has recorded a total of 11807 fatal cases.

Since the 5<sup>th</sup> wave, a total of 11594 fatal cases have been recorded.

**Table 5: Case fatality rate (CFR) by age group and vaccination status (since the 5<sup>th</sup> wave)**

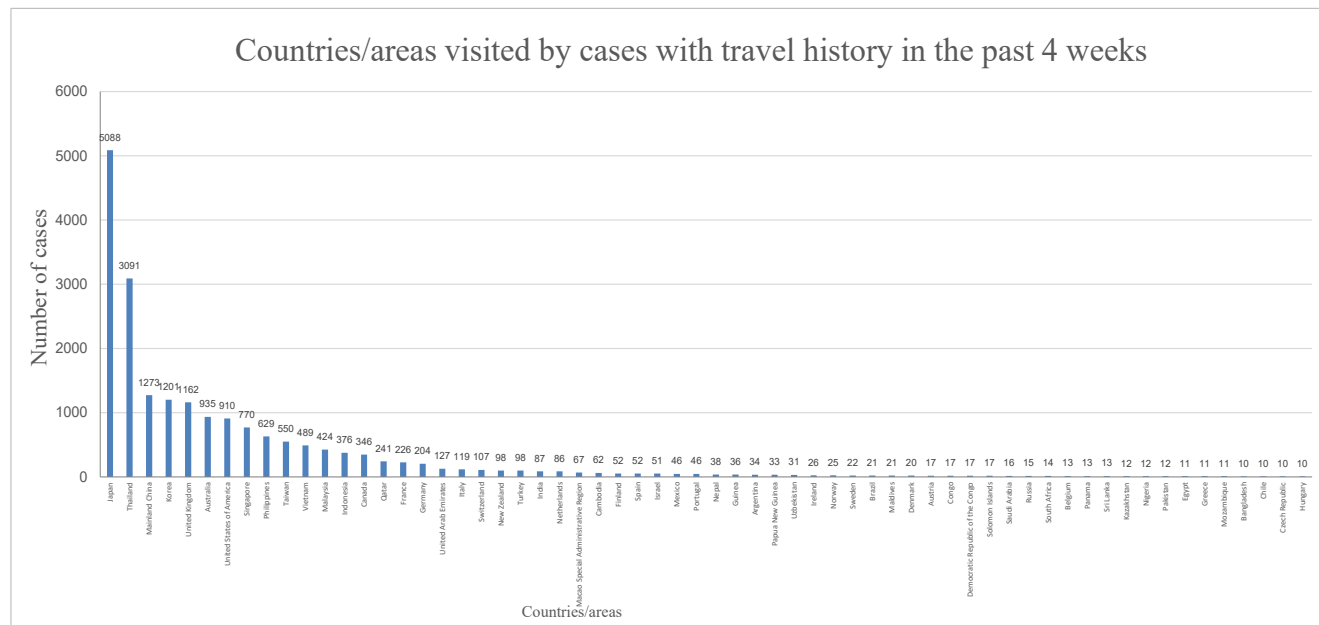
<b>Age Group</b>	<b>CFR of locally acquired cases</b>	<b>CFR of locally acquired cases with history of at least 2 doses of COVID-19 vaccine</b>	<b>CFR of locally acquired cases with history of 1 dose of COVID-19 vaccine or unvaccinated</b>
<b>0-9</b>	0.01%	0.00%	0.01%
<b>10-19</b>	0.00%	0.00%	0.01%
<b>20-29</b>	0.01%	0.00%	0.02%
<b>30-39</b>	0.01%	0.00%	0.03%
<b>40-49</b>	0.02%	0.01%	0.10%
<b>50-59</b>	0.09%	0.04%	0.46%
<b>60-69</b>	0.28%	0.10%	1.16%
<b>70-79</b>	1.12%	0.39%	3.20%
<b>80+</b>	7.14%	2.61%	12.28%
<b>Overall</b>	<b>0.47%</b>	<b>0.13%</b>	<b>1.77%</b>

Source of data: Data from the Centre for Health Protection of the Department of Health with available information on age and vaccination status.

Note: Table 5 (with data as of the preceding week) will be updated every Tuesday.

Figure 7 shows the countries/areas visited by the cases tested positive by nucleic acid tests reported in the past 4 weeks with travel history outside Hong Kong during the incubation period.

**Figure 7: Countries/areas visited by cases tested positive by nucleic acid tests reported in the past 4 weeks with travel history**



Note:

1. Some cases had visited more than one country/area.
2. Re-positive cases are excluded in Figure 7.
3. Only countries/ areas visited by 10 or more cases are included in Figure 7.