

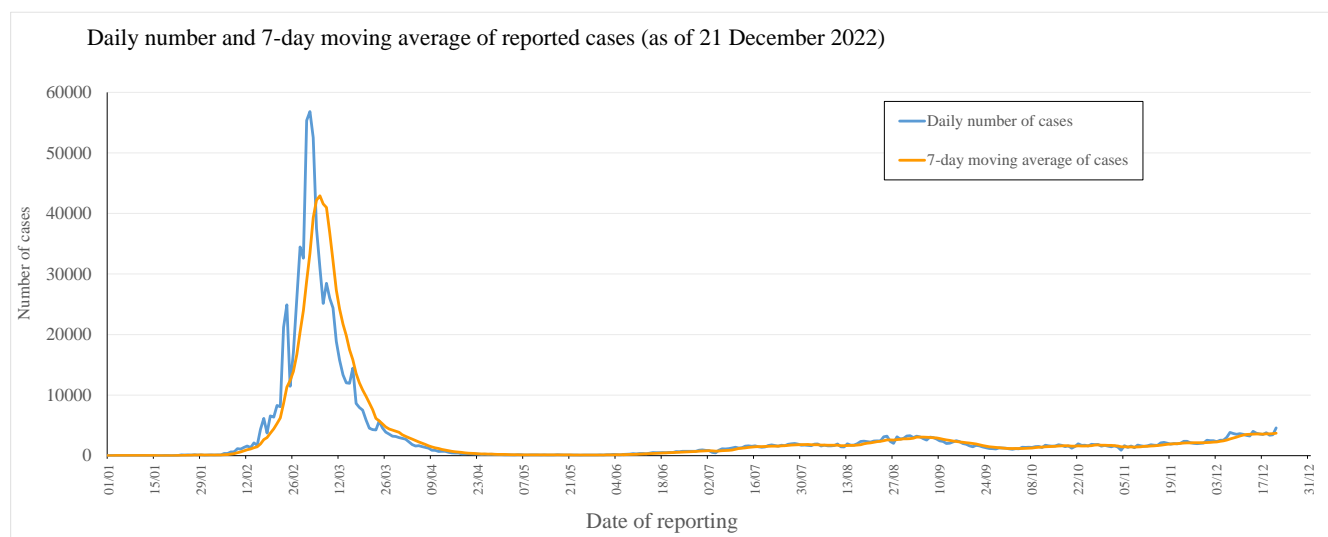
## **Latest situation of COVID-19 (as of 21 December 2022)**

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health (DH) today (21 December) announced the latest epidemic situation of COVID-19. As of 0.00am, 21 December 2022, the CHP was investigating 15971 additional locally acquired cases tested positive for the SARS-CoV-2 virus, including 3821 cases tested positive by nucleic acid tests and 12150 cases tested positive by rapid antigen tests (RATs) in the past 24 hours. Separately, 982 additional imported cases were reported, including 776 cases tested positive by nucleic acid tests and 206 cases tested positive by RATs. So far, Hong Kong has recorded a total of 1123458 and 1278780 cases tested positive by nucleic acid tests and RATs respectively for the SARS-CoV-2 virus.

Since the 5th wave (31 December 2021), 1110827 cases and 1278780 cases were tested positive by nucleic acid tests and rapid antigen tests respectively.

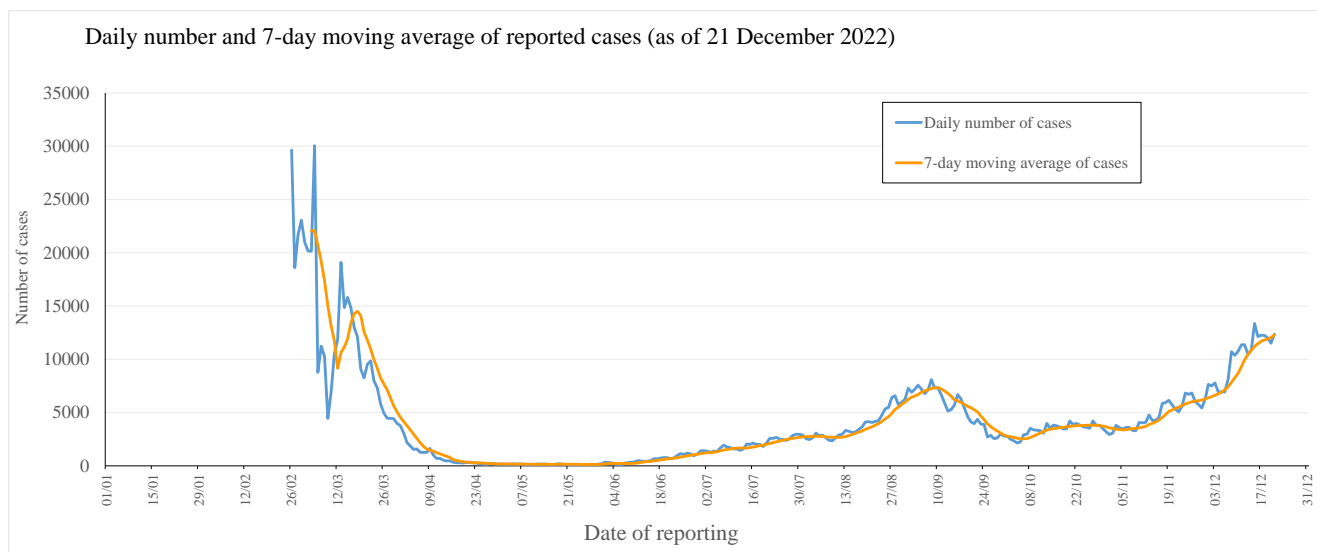
In the recent 7-day period from 15 to 21 December 2022, an average of 3715.3 cases by nucleic acid tests were reported per day, as compared with 3564.4 cases per day reported in the previous 7-day period from 8 to 14 December 2022 (Figure 1(i)).

**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**



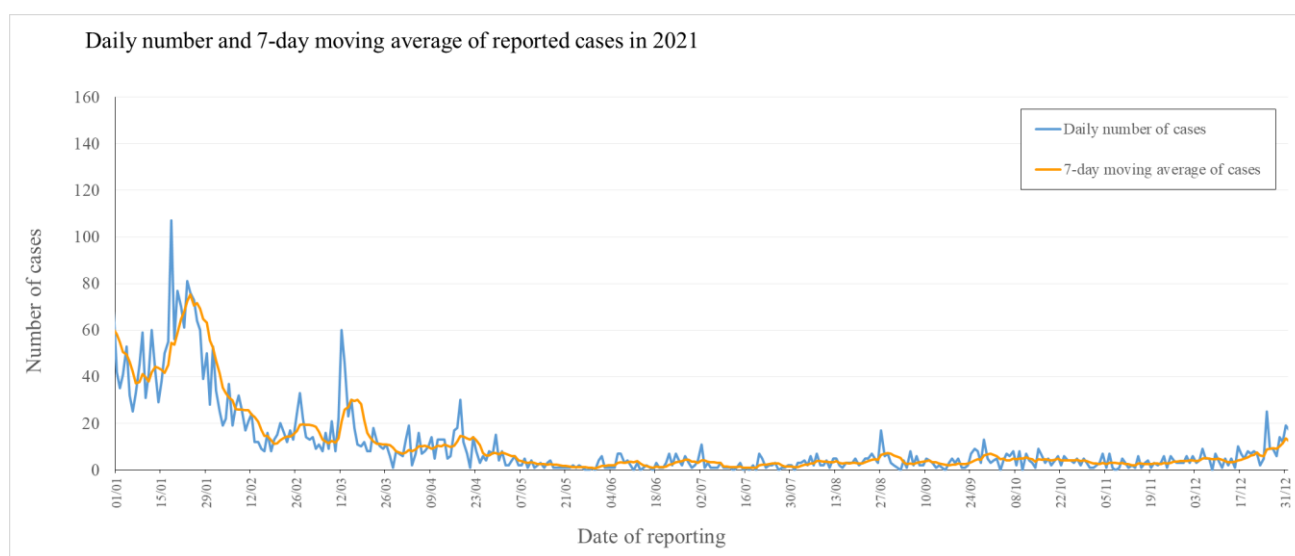
Note: Re-positive cases are excluded in Figure 1(i).

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



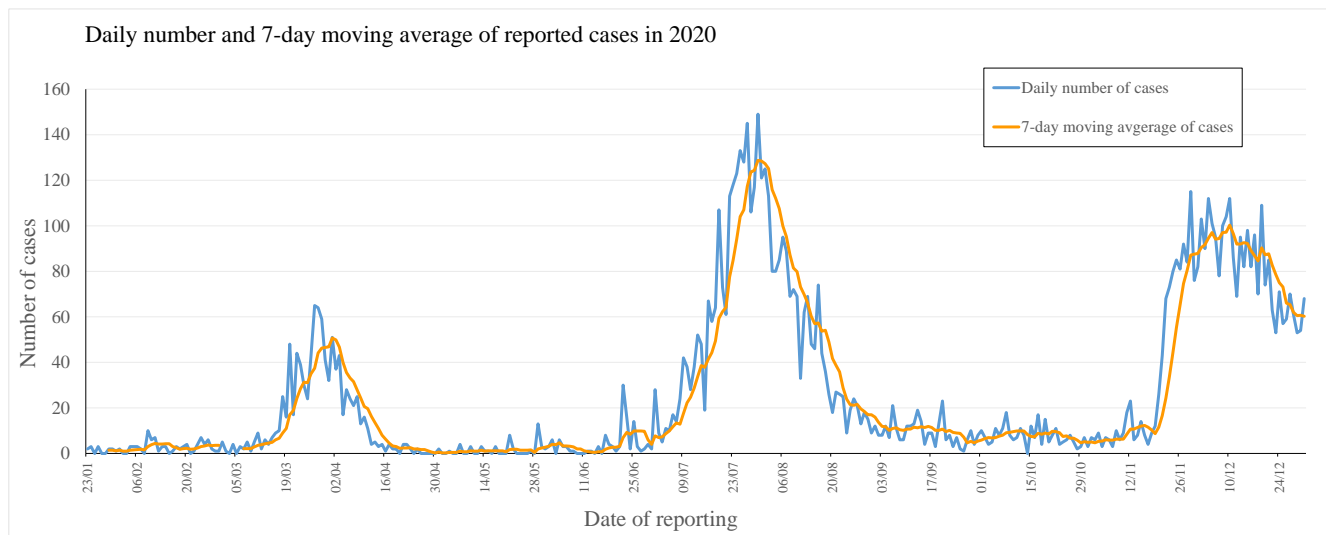
Note: Re-positive cases are excluded in Figure 1(ii).

**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**



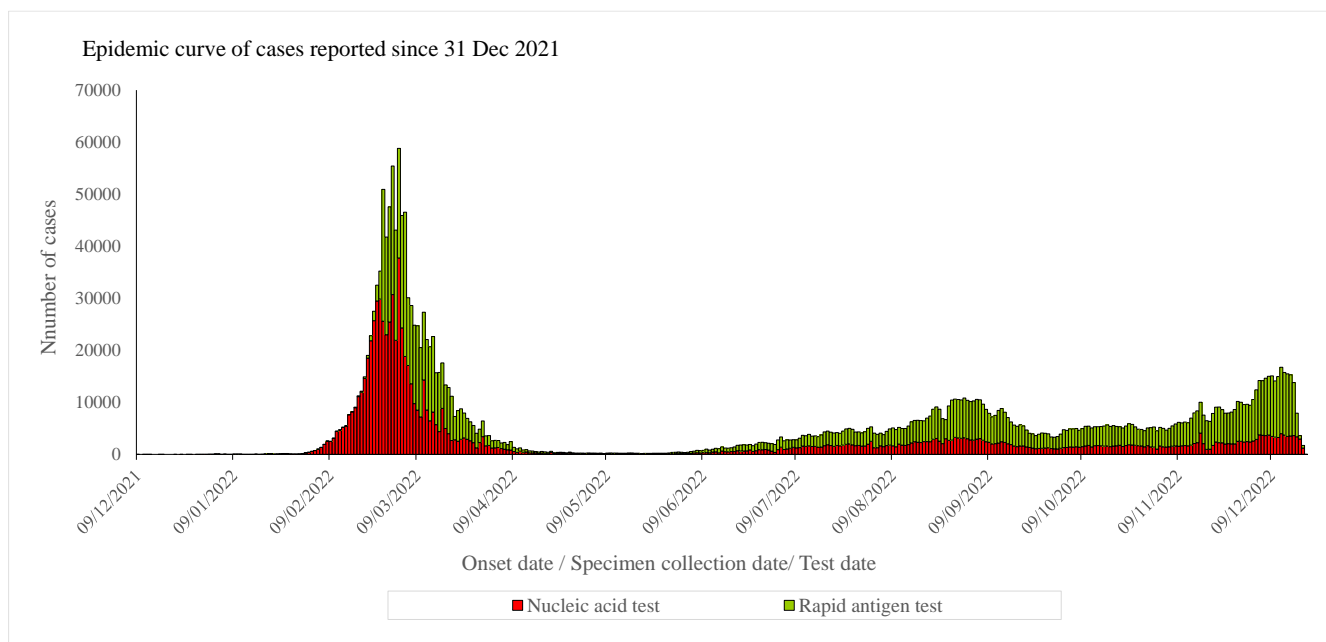
Note: Re-positive cases are excluded in Figure 1(iii).

**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).

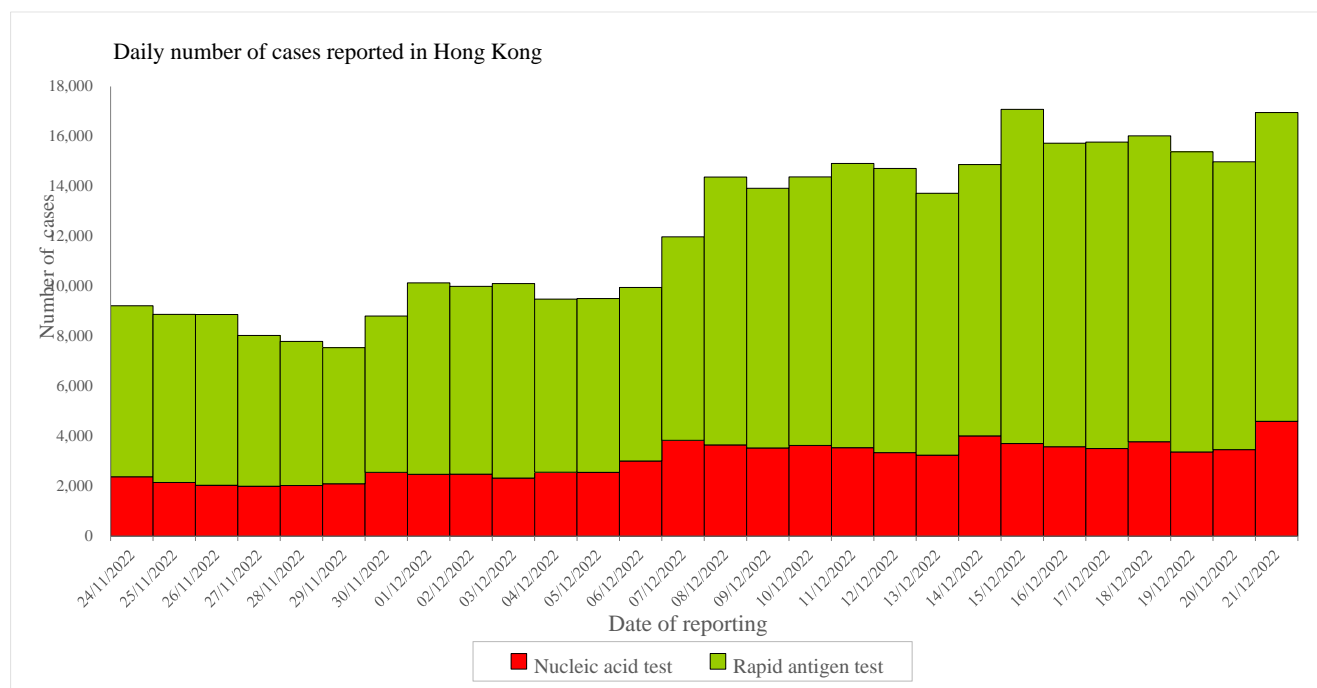
**Figure 2: Epidemic curve of cases tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 virus in Hong Kong since 31 December 2021**



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.

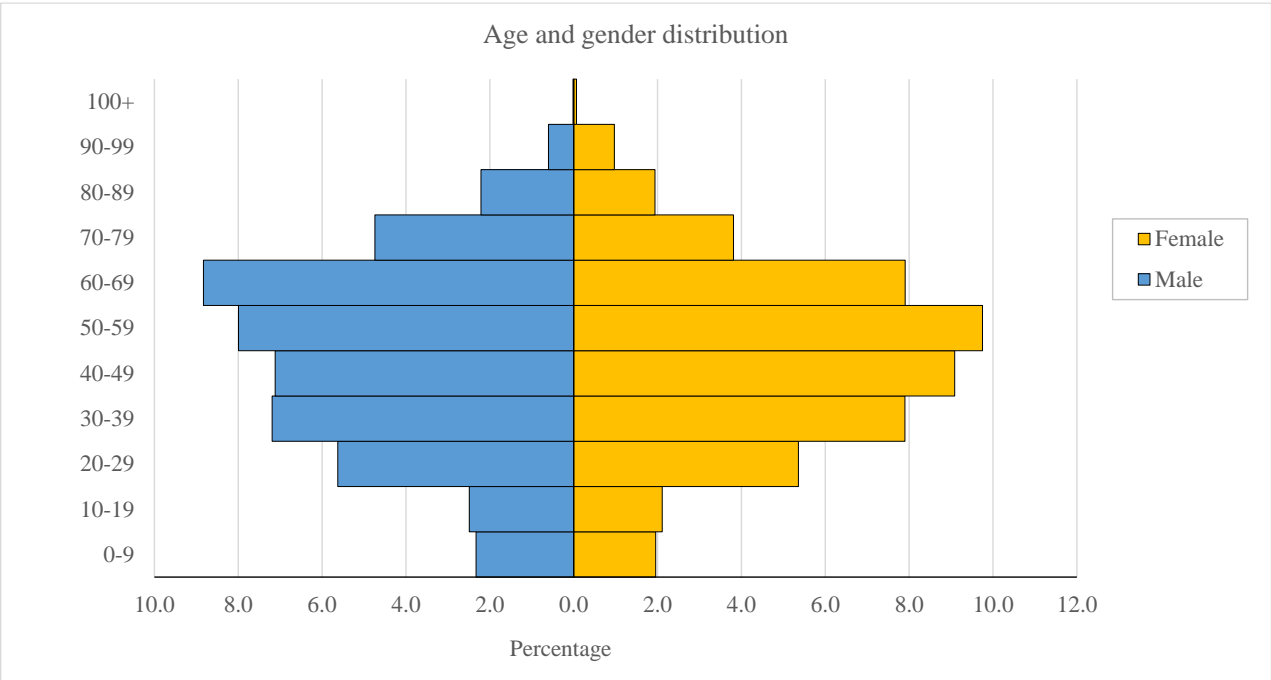
Table 1 shows the classification of cases reported since the 5<sup>th</sup> wave (since 31 December 2021).

**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	66322 (2.78%)	2323285 (97.22%)	2389607 (100.00%)
In the past 4 weeks			
24/11/2022 - 30/11/2022	4145 (7.01%)	55009 (92.99%)	59154 (100.00%)
01/12/2022 - 07/12/2022	4490 (6.31%)	66682 (93.69%)	71172 (100.00%)
08/12/2022 - 14/12/2022	5219 (5.17%)	95681 (94.83%)	100900 (100.00%)
15/12/2022 - 21/12/2022	6058 (5.41%)	105863 (94.59%)	111921 (100.00%)

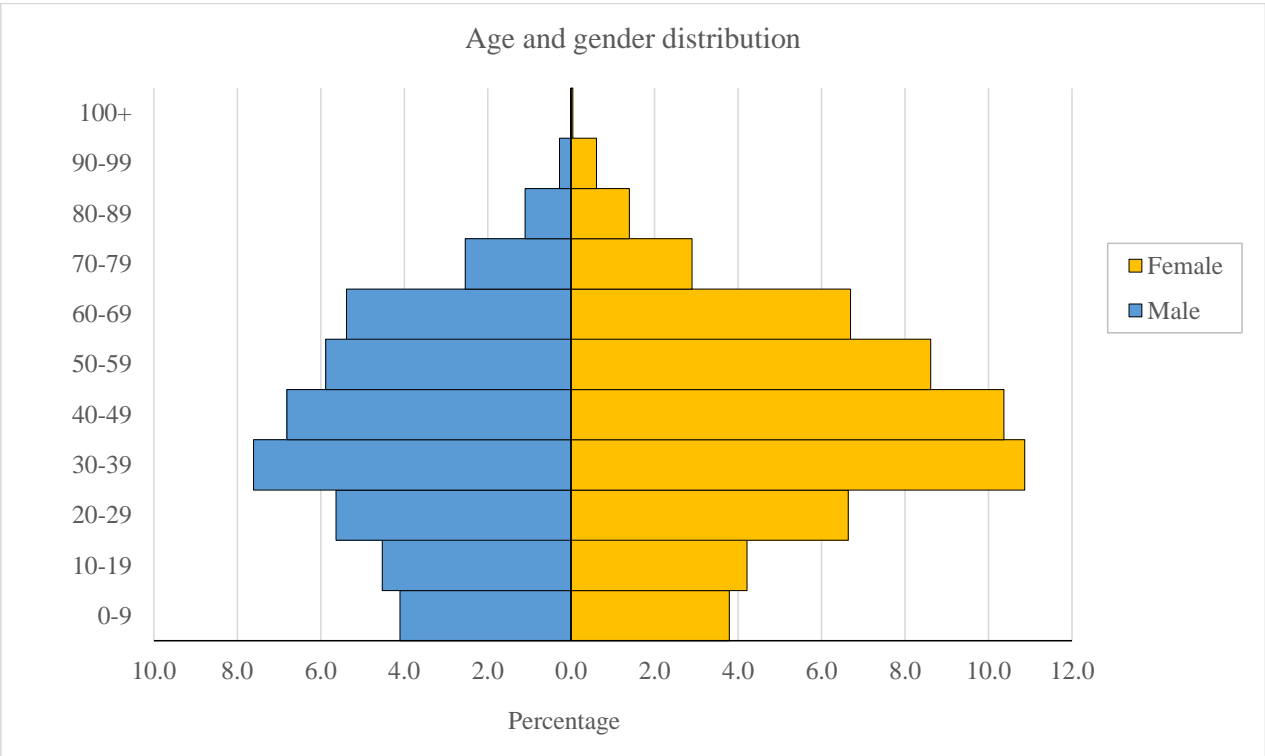
Figure 4 shows the age and gender distribution of the cases (since the 5<sup>th</sup> wave).

**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).

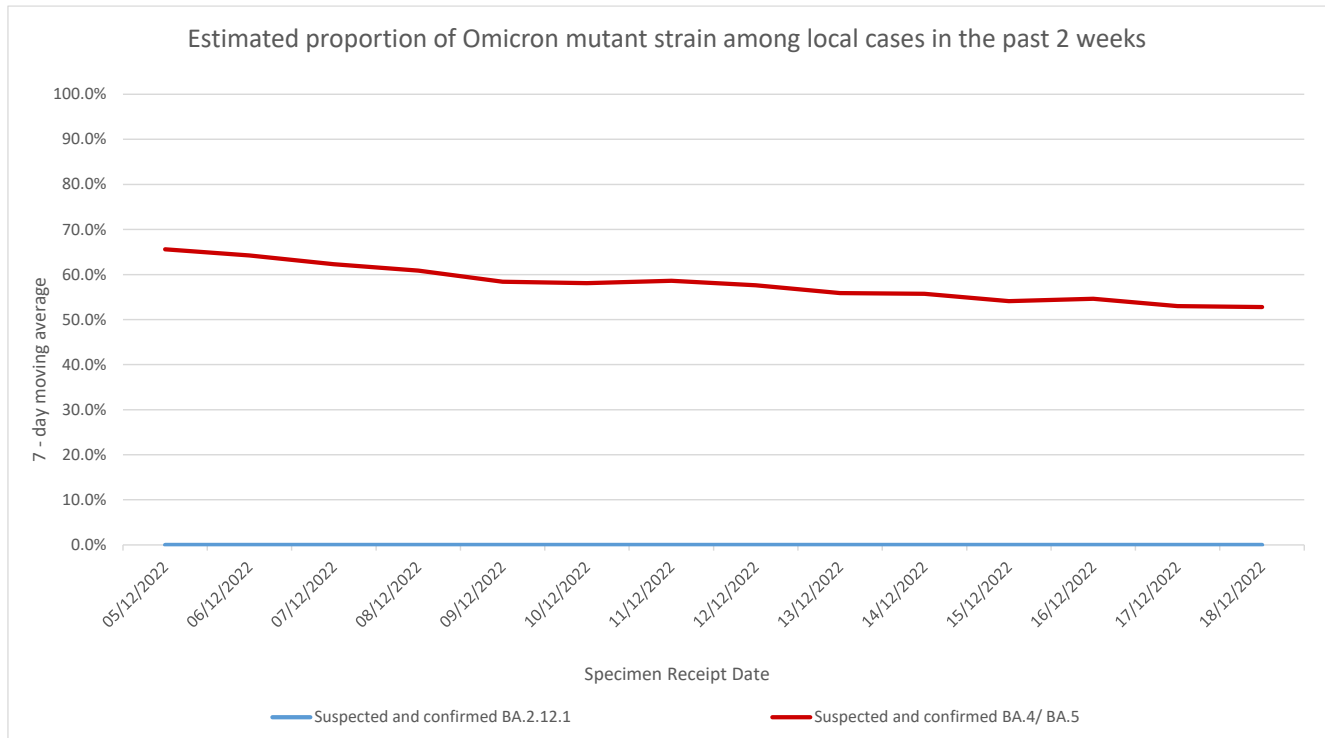
**Figure 4(ii): Age and gender distribution of cases tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 virus by rapid antigen tests in Hong Kong**



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 12 to 18 December for verification testing of local cases, about 0% and 52.78% 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**



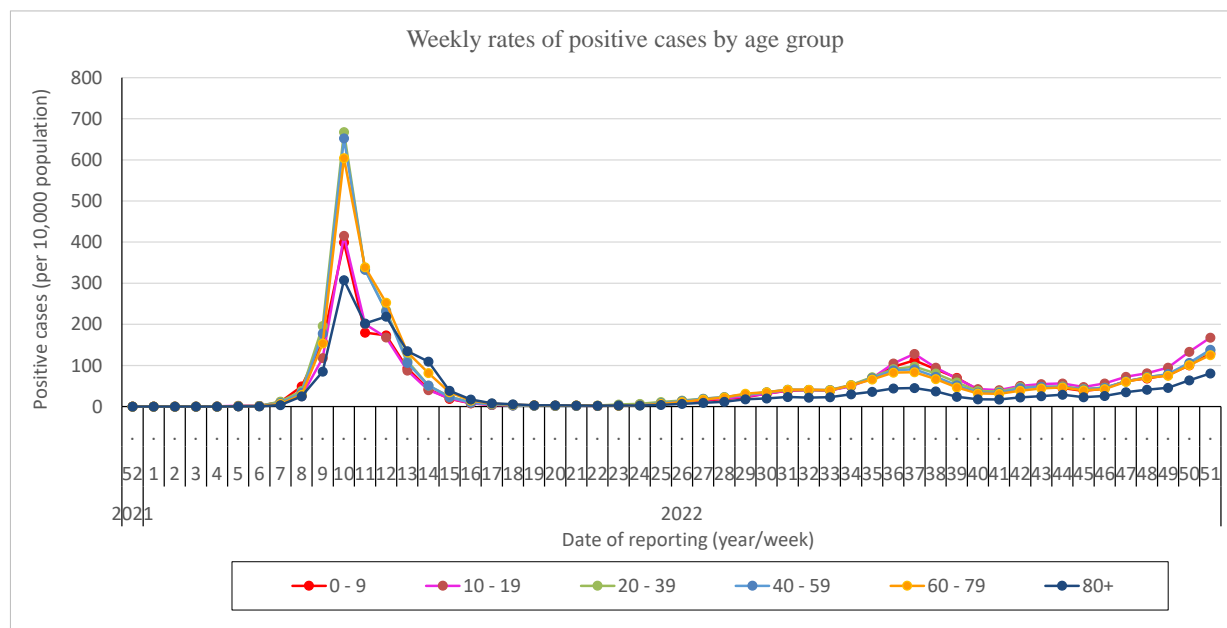
Note:

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 12 - 18 December 2022, 91.0% were BA.5. (to be updated weekly)

In addition, as of 0.00am, 21 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 149 cases of sub-lineage XBB, 18 of XBD, 1 of BA.2.75.2, 11 of BF.7 and 171 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	2153.5	Central and Western	1670.1	217.4	139.2	198.8	217.3
		Wan Chai	1707.1	213.7	146.2	166.2	177.6
		Eastern	2404.1	285.2	191.4	240.8	251.6
		Southern	2368.0	265.2	187.5	239.5	225.5
Kowloon	2678.3	Kowloon City	2321.6	258.0	166.5	217.5	248.7
		Kwun Tong	2944.7	294.8	180.7	221.4	264.6
		Sham Shui Po	2607.4	238.6	140.8	192.5	240.0
		Wong Tai Sin	2909.3	284.8	162.9	227.0	261.2
		Yau Tsim Mong	2363.3	206.0	148.8	187.1	215.6
New Territories East	2622.6	Islands	2197.0	234.3	156.8	234.1	244.2
		North	2769.1	340.7	197.8	291.5	329.9
		Sai Kung	2529.5	334.8	194.6	255.6	287.7
		Sha Tin	2740.1	330.1	184.6	241.9	305.1
		Tai Po	2615.0	298.2	185.3	291.1	264.2
New Territories West	2691.6	Kwai Tsing	2794.7	241.5	149.6	209.0	246.1
		Tsuen Wan	2550.4	273.4	183.0	244.6	277.4
		Tuen Mun	2842.8	280.7	169.9	266.9	294.6
		Yuen Long	2569.4	301.0	174.6	241.8	275.8

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
20/11/2022 - 26/11/2022	1452	5775	1130
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

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
20/11/2022 - 26/11/2022	110	151	14
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

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 11293 fatal cases.

Since the 5<sup>th</sup> wave, a total of 11080 fatal cases have been recorded.

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

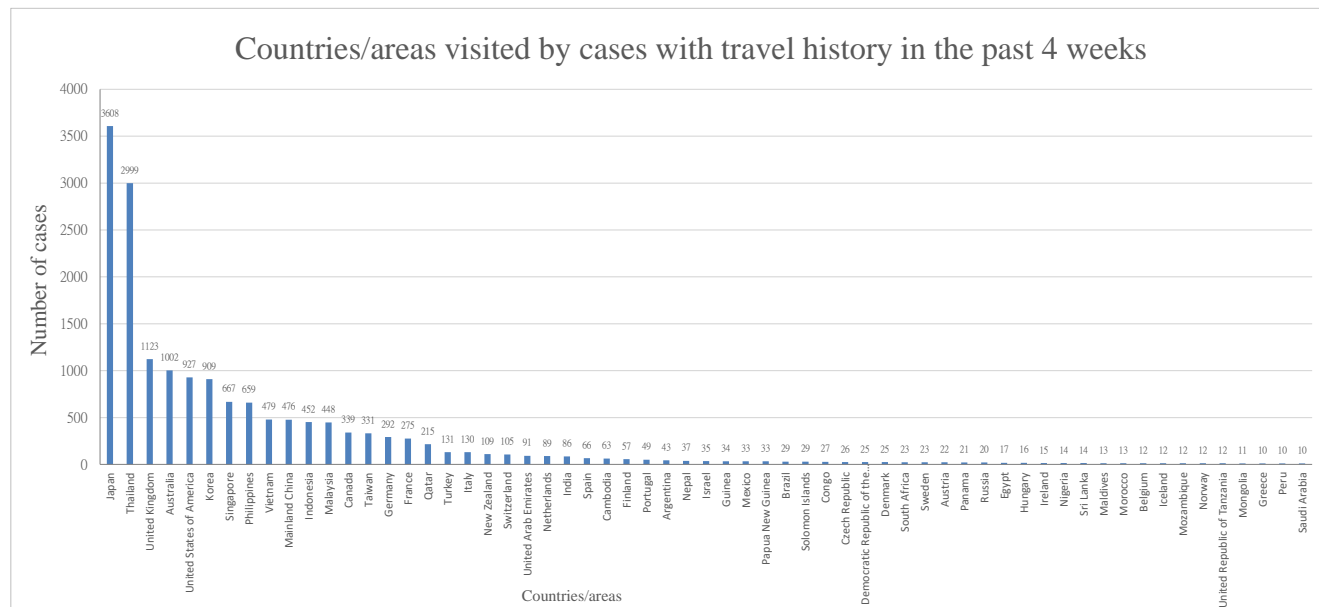
<b>Age Group</b>	<b>CFR of locally acquired cases</b>	<b>CFR of locally acquired cases with history of at least 2 doses of COVID-19 vaccine</b>	<b>CFR of locally acquired cases with history of 1 dose of COVID-19 vaccine or unvaccinated</b>
<b>0-9</b>	0.01%	0.00%	0.01%
<b>10-19</b>	0.00%	0.00%	0.01%
<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%	0.11%
<b>50-59</b>	0.09%	0.04%	0.46%
<b>60-69</b>	0.29%	0.10%	1.16%
<b>70-79</b>	1.14%	0.38%	3.21%
<b>80+</b>	7.34%	2.59%	12.32%
<b>Overall</b>	<b>0.48%</b>	<b>0.13%</b>	<b>1.80%</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.