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### **HKAF's ongoing efforts on eliminating discrimination and stigmatization**

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health (DH) has recently released the latest figures on the HIV/AIDS situation in Hong Kong from July to September as of 2019. A total of 152 additional cases of HIV infection were reported from July to September (3rd quarter of 2019). This figure represents a slight increase of 15 cases compared to the previous quarter. In total, the cumulative number of HIV infections has reached 10,150 cases.

And according to the CHP reports, of the 152 new cases, 126 were males while 26 were females. On the transmission front, 71 cases acquired the infection via homosexual or bisexual contact, 38 via heterosexual contact and 43 cases have yet to be determined due to incomplete information upon notification. In other words, sexual contact remains the major route of transmission regardless of their sexuality.

The Foundation shows concern about the reverse trend of new cases to previous two consecutive quarters. Although AIDS has become a chronic disease and will presumably be curable in foreseeable future, **discrimination and stigmatization remain the biggest threats to HIV prevention. The Foundation has appointed 3 inclusion ambassadors**, aiming to spread the key message of building a non-discrimination community to the general public; and the free HIV self-testing kit will be launched in early 2020.

#### ***Inclusion Ambassadors***

The Foundation has appointed 3 inclusion ambassadors, namely Mr. Sing Lam, Miss Angel Lam and Mr. Wong Ho Ting. The Foundation wishes to spread the core message of “anti-discrimination” to the general public. A new series of posters and promotional materials with 2 main themes “Love with Sextitude” and “I am an A Test Taker” will be launched in due course.

#### ***Free HIV self-testing kit***

The Foundation will launch the free HIV self-testing kit in early 2020, which is especially user-friendly for people who do not want to go to a clinic / service organisation for testing and prefer the convenience and privacy to do it by themselves. The introduction of HIV self-testing kit would further encourage the general public who is worried for having been exposed to risk of HIV infection to perform self-testing. The Foundation shall announce details of the free HIV self-testing kit in due course.

#### **About the Hong Kong AIDS Foundation**

The Hong Kong AIDS Foundation was established in 1991 and is a non-governmental social service organisation. The Foundation's mission is to limit the spread of HIV infection in the community. Throughout the years, the Foundation has been actively engaged in the promotion of AIDS education, the provision of services, and the nurturing of a harmonious and caring environment for those infected with or affected by HIV/AIDS. For more details about our work, please visit <http://www.aids.org.hk>.

#### **Media Enquires**

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