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From: Hong Kong AIDS Foundation

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Number of new HIV infections through heterosexual contact is on the rise
Rex Tso joins us to promote SAFER SEX & “Love with “Sextitude””

The Hong Kong AIDS Foundation (the Foundation) has been closely monitoring the HIV/AIDS situation in Hong Kong. The review of the local HIV/AIDS situation in the second quarter of 2018 released by the Centre for Health Protection of the Department of Health yesterday reported that, a total of 154 new cases of HIV infection were reported from April to June (2nd quarter) of 2018. The figure represents an increase of 12 cases compared with the figure in the 1st quarter (142 cases) and the cumulative number of HIV infections in Hong Kong has reached 9,387 cases.

According to the statistics, sexual contact remains the major route of transmission of HIV. Though most of the newly infected cases were as a result of homosexual contact, there is a rising trend of new infections among heterosexuals. The number of new HIV infections through heterosexual contact has increased from 20 cases to 38 cases (i.e. a 90% increase); while the number of AIDS cases through heterosexual contact has also increased from 5 to 17 (i.e. a 240% increase) (See Appendix). The Foundation expresses a deep concern about this situation.

In view of this, the Foundation will devote more time and effort into public education. To further promote its HIV/AIDS prevention and education, the Foundation started the preparation work in June to develop a new set of promotional posters and videos with the theme "Love with Sextitude", which aims at promoting the message that everyone should first, treat sexual behavior in a serious and responsible manner, and second, take HIV tests as early as possible and annually as part of a regular medical check-up.



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Professional boxer Mr. Rex Tso Sing-yu participated in the production of a new set of promotional posters and videos with the theme "Love with Sextitude" for the Foundation.

The Chief Executive of the Foundation, Ms. Eris Lau, stressed that the Foundation is determined to enhance its public education work to promote awareness of the importance of the proper use of condoms and of taking HIV tests as part of a routine health check, so as to reduce the risk of infection.

Survey on "First Sex and Sexual Health"

Besides its public education campaign, the Foundation is also conducting a survey on "First Sex and Sexual Health" with a view to examining the first sexual experiences and sexual health situation of people in Hong Kong through collecting information about the first time people had sex, their sexual health and their habit of taking regular HIV tests at the community level. The public are invited to complete the online questionnaire via the following website: <https://goo.gl/forms/COlclatwxBD4DJY12> (or see the recruitment poster below which has been posted online). Information collected will facilitate the Foundation to develop strategies for HIV/AIDS education and prevention services in the future.



About the Hong Kong AIDS Foundation

The Hong Kong AIDS Foundation was established in 1991 and is a non-governmental social service organization. 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 Enquiries

For media enquiries, please contact Ms. Noel Chan, Marketing and Publicity Manager of the Hong Kong AIDS Foundation, at 2560 8528 / 9474 1308 or by email to noelchan@hkaf.com; or Ms. Brenda Chan, Assistant Director of the Strategic Public Relations Group Limited, at 2114 4396 / 6108 6048 or by email to brenda.chan@sprg.com.hk.



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Appendix

HIV/AIDS Situation in Hong Kong as at 30 June 2018

| | This Quarter (Apr to Jun 2018) | | Cumulative | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------|--------------|--------------|
| | HIV | AIDS | HIV | AIDS |
| 1. Sex | | | | |
| Male | 127 | 30 | 7,655 | 1,602 |
| Female | 27 | 10 | 1,732 | 323 |
| 2. Ethnicity | | | | |
| Chinese | 95 | 30 | 6,477 | 1,481 |
| Non-Chinese | 34 | 10 | 2,661 | 444 |
| Unknown | 25 | 0 | 249 | 0 |
| 3. Route of Transmission | | | | |
| Heterosexual contacts | 38 | 17 | 3,143 | 1,018 |
| Homosexual contacts | 66 | 18 | 3,738 | 564 |
| Bisexual contacts | 11 | 4 | 484 | 108 |
| Injecting drug use | 0 | 0 | 358 | 66 |
| Blood / blood product recipients | 0 | 0 | 85 | 25 |
| Perinatal | 0 | 0 | 33 | 10 |
| Undetermined | 39 | 1 | 1,546 | 134 |
| 4. Total | 154 | 40 | 9,387 | 1,925 |

Source: Department of Health