

Investigation of A COVID-19 Contracted Musician Traveling to Australia after Visiting Taiwan, March 2020

Meng-Kai Hu^{1*}, Meng-Yu Chen¹, Hsin-Yi Wei¹, Chia-Ping Su², Xiang-Ting Huang¹,
Tsung-Hua Tung³, Yu-Fang Tsai¹, Hsiao-Ping Tung¹, Jui-Wei Hsieh¹

Abstract

On March 5, 2020, Taiwan Centers for Disease Control received a notification that a symptomatic traveler who traveled to Australia from Taiwan had been confirmed with Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). The patient was an Australian musician who stayed in Taiwan from February 28 to March 2. After the notification, health authorities conducted epidemiologic investigation and contact tracing. The patient stayed in United Kingdom for a long period and had intermittent cough since last winter. Because United Kingdom was not listed as an epidemic warning region at that time, he was not tested nor reported for COVID-19 at the airport quarantine station or at his clinic visit in Taipei while his symptom was getting worse. During his stay in Taiwan, he attended several public events but rarely wore a mask. Among 418 contacts identified, 148 were subjected to home quarantine, 270 were advised to conduct self health management. Overall, 52 contacts were tested for COVID-19 (including 34 people tested for enhanced surveillance); all tested negative. As of March 16, no secondary transmission was identified. To avoid imported cases related infections in Taiwan, Central Epidemic Command Center immediately updated relevant disease preventing guidance for border quarantine, public gatherings and community disease prevention.

Keywords: COVID-19, epidemiologic investigation, contact tracing

¹Taipei Regional Center, Centers for Disease Control, Ministry of Health and Welfare, Taiwan

²Office of Preventive Medicine, Centers for Disease Control, Ministry of Health and Welfare, Taiwan

³Department of Health, Taipei City Government, Taipei, Taiwan

Corresponding author: Meng-Kai Hu^{1*}

E-mail: mengkaihu@cdc.gov.tw

Received: Jul. 17, 2020

Accepted: Oct. 21, 2020

DOI: 10.6525/TEB.202010_36(20).0002