

What we want to know from CPH daily conference

It is reported that when the mainland experts met Hong Kong experts, they suggested Hospital Authority give more detailed account of Covid-related deaths, so that the public (and even the leaders) will not be scared. This is indeed very helpful advice. In today's press conference by CPH and HA, they started giving more information about deaths due to Omicron so far, such as the percentage in different age groups, and percentage of deaths not fully vaccinated. It would be useful if the type of vaccine is also given, as it may help those still to be vaccinated make their choice.

Even more helpful is that CPH gave some preliminary death rate statistics. Since the start of Omicron wave so far, the death rate is 0.54% for unvaccinated and 0.03% for vaccinated, 18 times higher. Since there is some delay in death numbers compared to case numbers, these numbers may turn a little higher; but since there may be some unreported infections, these numbers (case fatality rate) may also underestimate the true fatality rate.

A couple of days ago, it is reported that Zhong Nanshan in his message to encourage Hong Kong to strive for Dynamic Zero Covid quoted the Omicron case fatality rate from UK Health Security Agency to be 2.65%, 9.87% and 21.0% for age groups 60-69, 70-79 and 80+ respectively. This seems to be much higher than the Hong Kong preliminary numbers. The UKHSA Report seem to report the statistics as a number for 100,000 cases, and in percentage it seems it should be a factor of 10 smaller. It would be good if someone double check this and correct it if there is a mistake.

Finally, it seems another type of information would be immensely useful for the public, that is how the vast number of current cases got infected. Understandably it is not easy to determine the exact fashion of infection for each case. But if based on the reported cases, CPH can roughly determine the way infection most likely may have occurred, for example, how many percent due to being a relative, how many percent had been eating out, how many percent only went to work wearing face masks, how many percent only went to supermarkets, and/or wet markets and so on, this information would be very helpful for the public to smartly keep social distancing to protect themselves.

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