



# CMAAO COUNTRY REPORT HONG KONG, CHINA

The Hong Kong Medical Association

# MAJOR FOCUSES IN 2021-22

## 1. COVID-19 Pandemic

- Task Force Against COVID-19

## 2. Public Education

- Adult Immunization Campaign
- Men's Health Week

## 3. Continuing Medical Education

- Online CME lectures
- Specified CME programmes



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# 1. COVID-19 PANDEMIC

- Since the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic at the end of 2019, HK's COVID-19 cases remained at a low level thanks to the strict application of masks wearing and social distancing measures.
- Although HK experienced 4 major outbreaks in 2020-21, the city achieved **zero local infection cases for 8 consecutive months from mid to end of 2021.**
- However, with **the dominance of highly virulent Omicron mutant strains** BA.1 and BA.2, the transmission has quickly spread within the community and caused **the biggest outbreak (5th wave outbreak) in HK.**



# HONG KONG'S 5<sup>TH</sup> WAVE OUTBREAK

(FROM DEC 2021 TO PRESENT)

- On 9 Feb, the number of confirmed cases in a single day exceeded 1,000. Affected by the cold wave from 17 to 24 Feb, it exacerbated the deterioration of the epidemic. **On 25 Feb, the number of confirmed cases in a single day exceeded 10,000 for the first time.**
- Subject to the "**dynamic zero**" policy of the HKSAR government, **COVID-19 patients and their close contacts were not allowed to be isolated and treated at home at first, instead, they were sent to designated quarantine facilities or hospitals.** The capacity of isolation wards in public hospitals was already full, but a large number of asymptomatic patients were sent to hospitals nevertheless.
- As a result, a huge number of beds needed to be placed in the open air outside the hospital. Many public hospitals also had a long queue of patients sleeping outside waiting for admission.



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# HONG KONG'S 5<sup>TH</sup> WAVE OUTBREAK

(FROM DEC 2021 TO PRESENT)



*Patients were sleeping outside due to insufficient hospital beds.*



*As number of dead rose drastically, some patients had to share treatment space with corpses.*

# HONG KONG'S 5<sup>TH</sup> WAVE OUTBREAK

(FROM DEC 2021 TO PRESENT)

- As traditional PCR tests were unable to keep up with the development of the epidemic, the HK government has changed the previous practice of only recognizing PCR test results conducted by specific contractors. **RAT test results were also accepted since 25 Feb**, and a RAT declaration platform was launched on 7 Mar for citizens to declare their positive testing results.
- Due to the continuous increase in infected cases, **the HK government finally adopted home quarantine arrangement at the end of Feb.**

**家居檢疫的健康建議**  
Health Advice for home quarantine

- 除棄置垃圾、前往社區檢測中心進行檢測及進行獲衛生署許可的活動外，請留在隔離地點至整段隔離期結束。  
Stay in place of quarantine during the whole quarantine period, except for disposal of garbage, going to community testing centres for swab taking, or for any other activities as agreed by the Department of Health
- 家居檢疫時，請保持單位大門關上。  
Keep the apartment door closed during the quarantine period
- 禁止任何人如非同住親友進入家居檢疫範圍。  
Any other person(s) should not enter the place of quarantine (e.g. friends or relatives not living together)

 於開啟單位大門及必要情況下離開單位時，請正確佩戴貼面的外科口罩。  
Wear a well-fitted surgical mask properly whenever you open the door or leave the flat for necessary need

 監測健康狀況並在出現症狀時，立即進行快速抗原檢測。  
Monitor health condition and have a RAT if symptoms develop

 保持良好的個人衛生習慣，尤其是手部衛生  
Maintain good personal hygiene especially hand hygiene

 保持空氣流通，並經常清潔消毒（包括廁所和廚房）  
Maintain good ventilation, frequent cleansing and disinfection (including kitchen and toilet)

Source: CHP

# HONG KONG'S 5<sup>TH</sup> WAVE OUTBREAK

(FROM DEC 2021 TO PRESENT)

- In late Feb, the then-Chief Executive Mrs. Carrie LAM announced that **an universal compulsory PCR testing would be held** in HK. Subsequently, members of the Legislative Council and pro-establishment politicians repeatedly remarked that **HK would implement a lockdown, leading to panic buying and chaos** in the market for food, daily necessities and medicines.
- **Due to strong opposition among the public, the Government discarded the proposal of universal mass testing in Mar.**



Source: New York Times



# HONG KONG'S 5<sup>TH</sup> WAVE OUTBREAK

(FROM DEC 2021 TO PRESENT)

- **The 5<sup>th</sup> wave outbreak reached its peak in early Mar with more than 70,000 cases in a single day**, the numbers went down to four figures since 26 Mar and three figures since 15 Apr.
- The University of Hong Kong estimated that 4.4 million people had been infected since the start of COVID-19 pandemic to Mar 2022.
- **Since June 2022, the number of COVID-19 cases has rebounded due to the dissemination of Omicron subvariants BA.2.12.1, BA.4 and BA.5.** More than 9,000 new confirmed cases were updated on the 28 Aug, the highest since the end of Mar. **Omicron subvariants BA.4 and BA.5 have become the mainstream mutant strains in Hong Kong, accounting for more than 50% of the total cases.**



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# HKMA'S ANTI-PANDEMIC EFFORT

## HKMA Task Force Against COVID-19

- As Hong Kong battles its fifth wave of COVID-19, the HKMA has set up Task Force Against COVID-19 to fight the pandemic. **Together with the efforts of the Advisory Committee on Communicable Diseases**, various actions have been taken to safeguard the health of the public:

1. WhatsApp Message Support Service (WMSS)

2. Press Conferences & Public talks on COVID-19

3. COVID-19 Outreach Vaccination Service

4. Meetings with Government Officials

5. Distributing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to private doctors

6. MPS Subscription Relief for Specialists

7. CME lectures on COVID-19 and related medicolegal concerns

8. Convey updated information of COVID-19 to members via HKMA News and CME Bulletin



# 1. WHATSAPP MESSAGE SUPPORT SERVICE (WMSS)

- In Feb 2022, in response to the needs of the society, the HKMA set up the WhatsApp Message Support Service (WMSS).
- This service was launched on 17 Feb and **for the first day, nearly 1,000 messages were received.**
- Anxious members of the public sent in enquiries concerning COVID-19 symptoms, isolation arrangements, lack of supplies, and what to do after tested positive in RAT or PCR tests.



# 1. WHATSAPP MESSAGE SUPPORT SERVICE (WMSS)

- Messages were first screened out by Secretariat staff and then referred to volunteering duty doctors if these were medical related.
- **Follow-up consultation through telephone was conducted by doctor if necessary.**
- **During the 7-week operation, the service had processed more than 13,000 messages.**



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## 2. PRESS CONFERENCES ON COVID-19



- The HKMA held press conferences to give advices to the public and the Government.



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## 2. PUBLIC TALKS ON COVID-19

- The HKMA has conducted a series of public talks on COVID-19 since 9 Feb 2022. Topics include vaccination, treatment, home quarantine, children care, variants of COVID-19, emergency services and long-COVID.
- **More than 2,800 members of the public joined the seven talks held in virtual mode.**



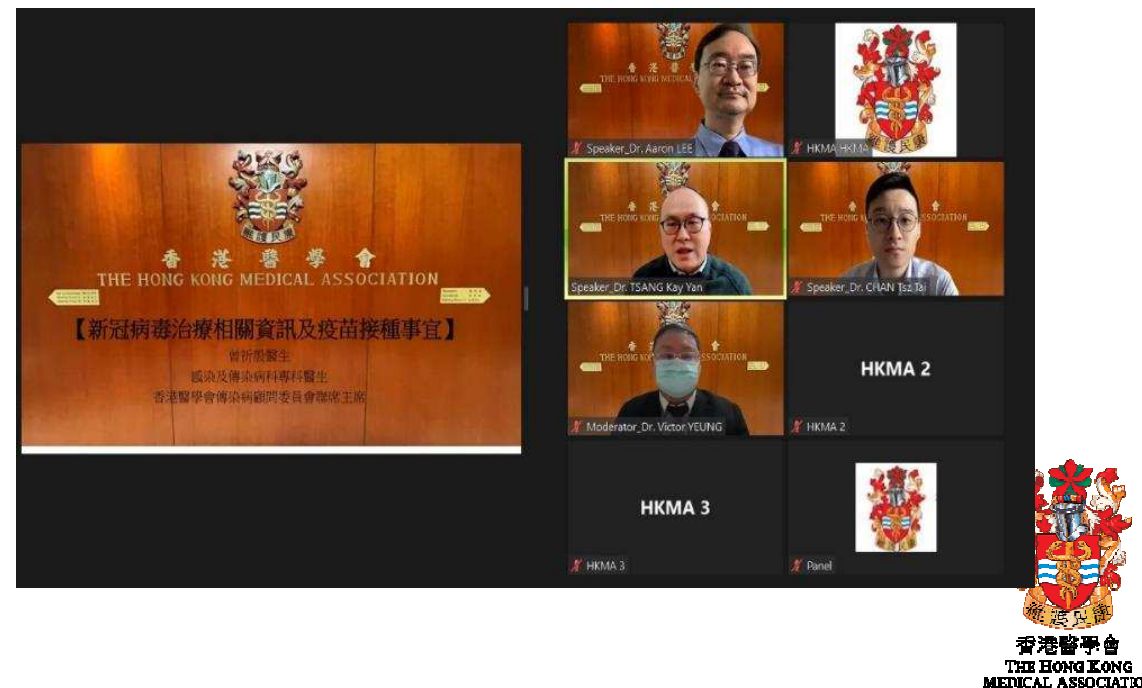
*COVID-19 Vaccination for Children Public  
Talk on 9 Feb 2022*

## 2. PUBLIC TALKS ON COVID-19



*“What You Need to Know to Stay Home Safe” Online Public Talk on 19 Feb 2022*

*“What You Need to Know about COVID-19 Treatment and Emergency Services” Online Public Talk on 12 Mar 2022*



### 3. COVID-19 OUTREACH VACCINATION SERVICE

- Having learnt from our community partners this unmet need of elderly and students with special educational needs (SEN), the HKMA **organized the “COVID-19 Outreach Vaccination Service” on 2 Apr 2022.**
- **Doctors were recruited to offer home vaccination to elderly with low mobility in the two districts.**





### 3. COVID-19 OUTREACH VACCINATION SERVICE

- On the same day, a vaccination centre was set up to provide vaccination service for elderly, their carers and the school's students.
- Many of the elderly who joined our service were not covered by other outreach or home vaccination programmes. Seeing the pressing need to protect this vulnerable group, the HKMA has taken prompt action and pull together to start the service within a short period of time.
- The HKMA also followed-up with the participants for the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> doses.



## 4. MEETINGS WITH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

- In the face of the COVID-19 pandemic, **the Advisory Committee on Communicable Diseases (ACCD), under the HKMA, maintained close communication with the Government** and frequently invited the staff of the Centre for Health Protection (CHP), including the Controller, to discuss the importance of border control, protective equipment, viral testing, social distancing, public-private partnership in terms of epidemic prevention.



*Zoom Meeting with Dr. Anne CHEE  
and Dr. KH KUNG from the CHP*

## 5. DISTRIBUTING PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE) TO PRIVATE DOCTORS

- Understanding the difficulties doctors faced in procuring Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) during crunch time. **The HKMA has also collaborated with Food and Health Bureau (FHB) in distributing PPE items to private doctors in Hong Kong.**
- **All the PPE items were successfully delivered by the end of Apr.**



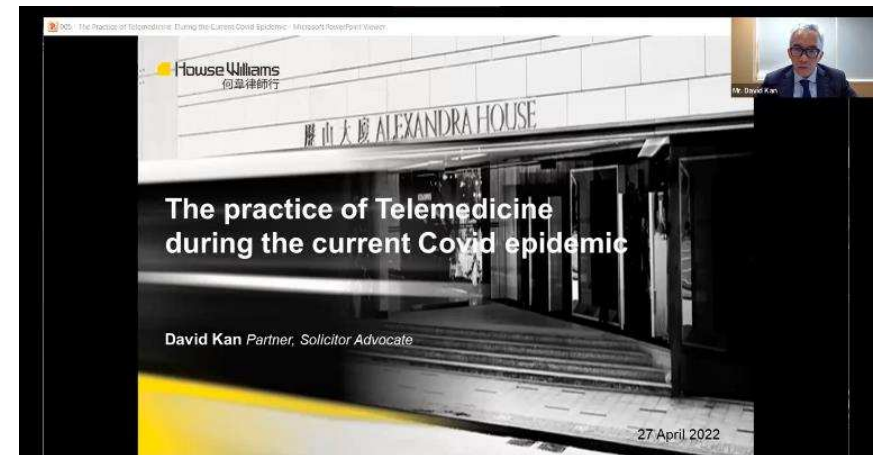
## 6. MPS SUBSCRIPTION RELIEF FOR SPECIALISTS

- **The HKMA liaised with the Medical Protection Society UK (MPS) to introduce relief measures for local private doctors who had reduced clinical activity resulting from the pandemic.**
- MPS agreed to implement Subscription Reliefs for specialists who were not benefited from their Limited Practice or Deferment arrangements.
- The Subscription Reliefs exercise is implemented in phases, with emails for the first batch already issued at the end of Jun.



## 7. CME LECTURES ON COVID-19 AND RELATED MEDICOLEGAL CONCERNS

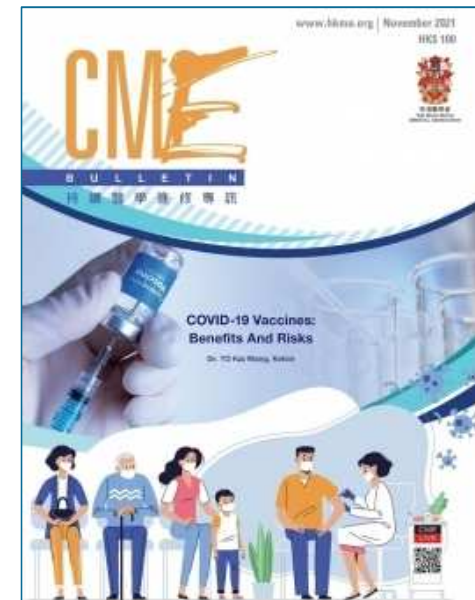
- In the light of the fifth wave of the pandemic and the significant increase in the demand for medical support by the public, **the HKMA launched several Continuing Medical Education lectures and a conference to members concerning telemedicine practices.**
- The lectures happened in time to address members' concerns and helped to facilitate more telemedicine practices under the existing regulations.



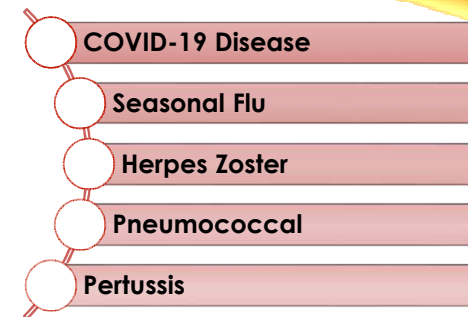
*"The Practice of Telemedicine during the current COVID epidemic" CME Lecture on 27 Apr 2022*



## 8. CONVEY UPDATED INFORMATION OF COVID-19 TO MEMBERS VIA HKMA NEWS AND CME BULLETIN



# PUBLIC EDUCATION




## Adult Immunization Campaign

- 24 – 30 April is the **World Immunization Week** designated by the World Health Organization. This year, the Week is themed with “Long Life for All”, to encourage people of all ages across countries, to get vaccinated.
- The HKMA has taken the opportunity to launch a new campaign on adult immunization in July 2022, with the aims of **providing information on five common vaccine-preventable diseases to eliminate public misconceptions about vaccines.**
- The Campaign includes CME lectures, Public Talks, online educational materials and social media promotion.
- Campaign website [www.adultvax.thkma.org](http://www.adultvax.thkma.org)




Press Conference to kick-off  
the Campaign






## 成人免疫接種 Adult Immunization



**剛滿80歲的呂太**

2019冠狀病毒病  
季節性流感 ✓  
可考慮接種：  
百日咳 ✓  
肺炎球菌 ✓



**15歲的Niu Niu**

2019冠狀病毒病  
季節性流感 ✓  
可考慮接種：  
百日咳 ✓  
肺炎球菌 ✓



**75歲的呂老太**

2019冠狀病毒病 ✓  
季節性流感 ✓  
百日咳 ✓  
肺炎球菌 ✓



**年滿50歲的醫生**

2019冠狀病毒病 ✓  
季節性流感 ✓  
可考慮接種：  
百日咳 ✓  
肺炎球菌 ✓




### 健康保本 快打疫苗 Invest in Your Health, Get Vaccinated!

2019冠狀病毒病	免費	接種三劑疫苗
年滿3歲幼童及以上人士		<p>*截至2022年6月30日，年齡介乎3至11歲已接種兩劑完齊來補疫苗應於接種第二劑疫苗90日後接種第三劑，年齡介乎5至11歲已接種兩劑後必爭疫苗尚未應接應第三劑疫苗。</p> <p>詳情可瀏覽 <a href="https://www.covidvaccine.gov.hk/zh-HK/">https://www.covidvaccine.gov.hk/zh-HK/</a></p>
季節性流感	政府資助	每年接種
年滿6個月以上人士，特別建議高風險人士 如孕婦、醫護人員、50歲或以上人士		詳情可瀏覽 <a href="https://www.chp.gov.hk/tc/features/46199.html">https://www.chp.gov.hk/tc/features/46199.html</a>
肺炎球菌	政府資助	只需接種一劑13價結合疫苗或23價多聯疫苗
65歲或以上健康人士 2歲或以上高風險人士		<p>從未接種者：先接種13價結合疫苗，一年後接種23價多聯疫苗</p> <p>已接種23價多聯疫苗：相隔一年後接種13價結合疫苗</p> <p>已接種13價結合疫苗：相隔一年後接種23價多聯疫苗</p> <p>詳情可瀏覽 <a href="https://www.chp.gov.hk/tc/features/103165.html">https://www.chp.gov.hk/tc/features/103165.html</a></p>
百日咳		在每次懷孕的妊娠第二或三期期間任何時間，接種一劑白喉（減量）、破傷風及無細胞型百日咳（減量）混合疫苗
孕婦		接種一劑破傷風、白喉、無細胞型百日咳混合疫苗(Tdap)
19歲或以上成人		隨後每10年接種一劑破傷風、減量白喉混合疫苗(Td)或Tdap加強劑
帶狀疱疹		接種兩劑（新一代）減活蓋皰疫苗(RZV)
50歲或以上，包括曾生水痘或生蛇之人士		由於保護效果隨時間降低，建議需補打（新一代）減活蓋皰疫苗
已接種傳統疫苗者		

\*以上資料的最後更新日期：2022年7月5日。

**聯絡我們：**  
 電話：2527 8285    電郵：[vaccine@hkma.org](mailto:vaccine@hkma.org)    Facebook / YouTube：香港醫學會



免費聲明：  
本計劃所獲的疫苗資料僅供參考，在決定接種疫苗前，應向個人健康諮詢，並向任何建議提供疫苗者索取資料。

# PUBLIC EDUCATION

- Promotional video



- Poster



# PUBLIC EDUCATION

## Men's Health Week

- The Men's Health Community Network of the HKMA held "Men's Health Week" from 15 to 20 Nov 2021.
- **Doctors from different specialties were invited to conduct online CME courses, as well as seminars and public talks for the public to share relevant men's health topics.**
- Including "Men's Health Updates", "Men's Drug Abuse Problems", "Men's Smoking Cessation Tips: Be Happy and Brave" and "The Golden Time for Treatments for Common STDs".



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# PUBLIC EDUCATION



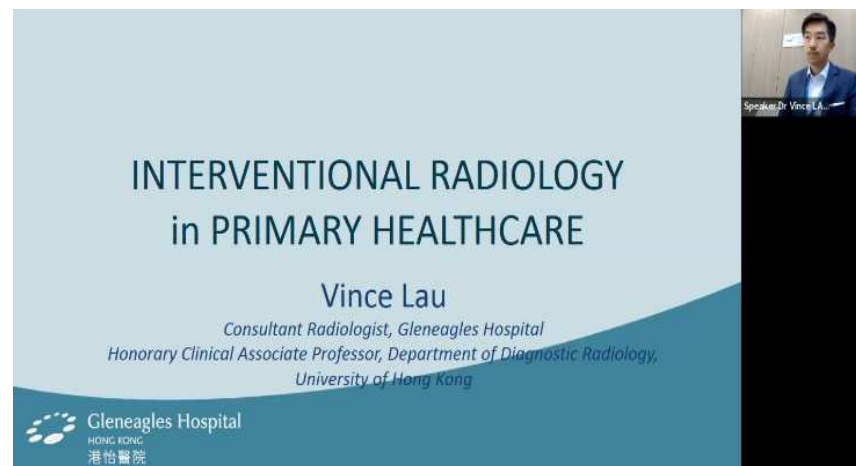
*Public talk on smoking cessation*



*Public talk on common STDs*

# CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION (CME)

- The HKMA pioneered CME online lectures and has put continuous efforts into exploring different online webinar platforms, so as to provide high quality and easy-to-access CME Live Lectures to fellow doctors. **From July 2021 to June 2022, the HKMA has organized more than 222 CME Live Lectures**, with an average of over 350 doctors attending each lecture, **adding up to over 80,000 attendance in the period** .





# CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION (CME)

- In late 2021, for the first time, **a structured CME series was co-organized with the Hong Kong Science Park.** The Committee also **worked together with the Department of Orthopaedics & Traumatology, the University of Hong Kong,** in arranging a series of CME lectures.



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**CME Live Lecture**  
LECTURE IS STARTING AT 14:00  
PLEASE WAIT

Date: 22 December 2021  
Topics: 1. Artificial Intelligence In Medical Imaging And Analysis: Progress, Promises And Pitfalls;  
2. AI As Unique And Unrivalled Assistance In Clinical Diagnosis Locally  
Speakers: 1. Prof. CHEN Hao - Department of Computer Science and Engineering, HKUST  
2. Mr. Chapman LEE - Director, Insight Technology

This webinar will be conducted in English Sponsored by: **HKSTP**



# OTHER EFFORTS

**Showing supports to medical practitioners and allied health workers in HK and Mainland China**



*Supportive video*

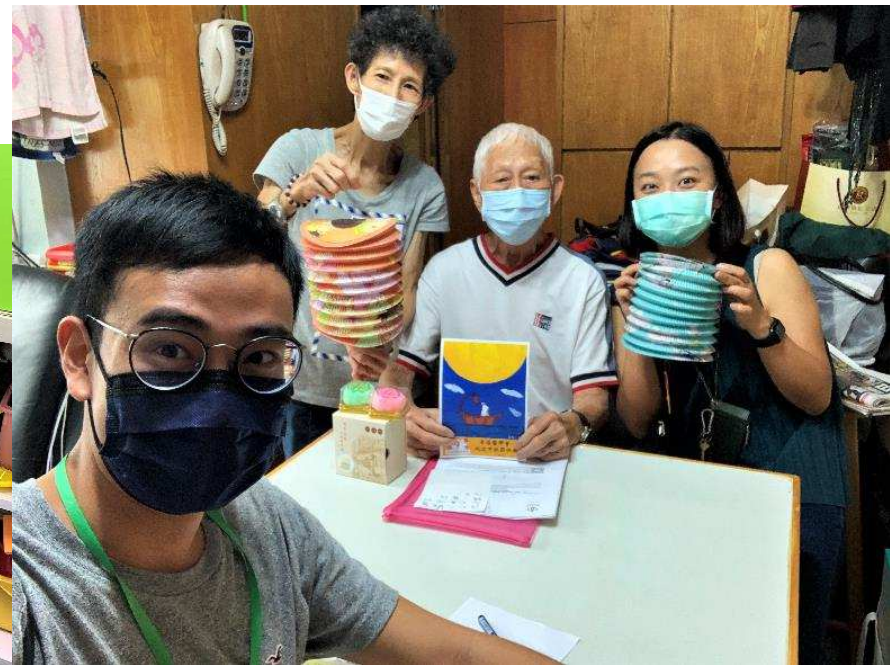


*Special Publication*



# OTHER EFFORTS

## Community Services





# OTHER EFFORTS

## HKMA Virtual Run 2022



# OTHER EFFORTS

**Virtual career seminar for medical students** – the annual event passes on the vision of the HKMA to the youngsters, fostering communication and give them career advices.





**Quarterly photo  
competition for members**

## OTHER EFFORTS



~ THANK YOU~



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