

Facilitators and Barriers to Use Rapid Antigen Test among Community-dwelling Older Adults in Hong Kong: A Population-Based Random Telephone Survey

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Background

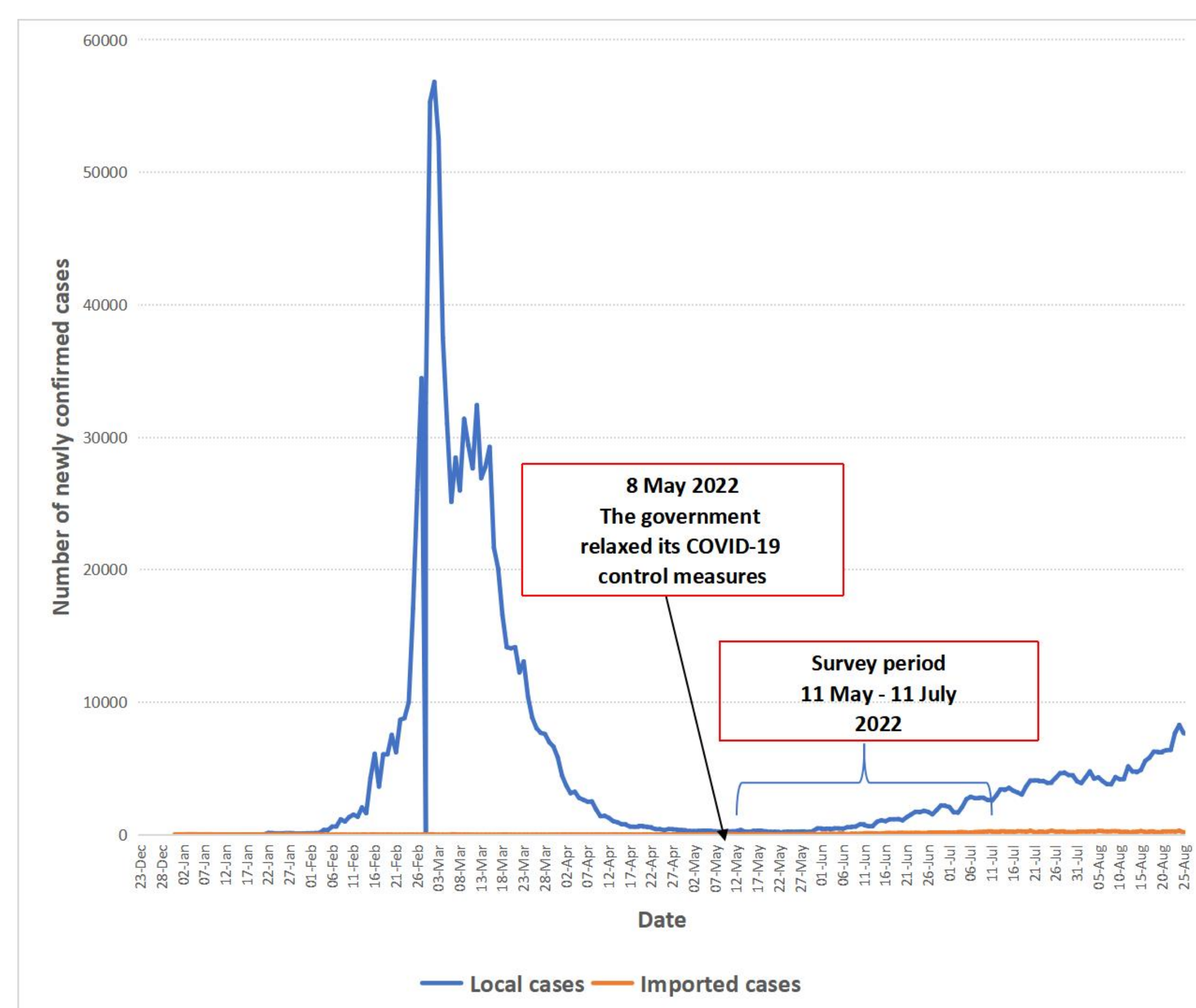
- ❑ Faster diagnosis of COVID-19 is **crucial for surveillance**, **prompt implementation** of infection control measures and **adequate patient care** among older adults
- ❑ Unlike nucleic acid amplification tests, **rapid antigen tests** (RAT) for SARS-CoV-2 have the **shortest assay time** of 15-20 minutes and are **easy to perform** as self-testing¹⁻³
- ❑ With the faster and cheaper diagnosis, **RAT drastically reduced COVID-19 infections** and averted potential deaths in several countries⁴⁻⁶

Objectives

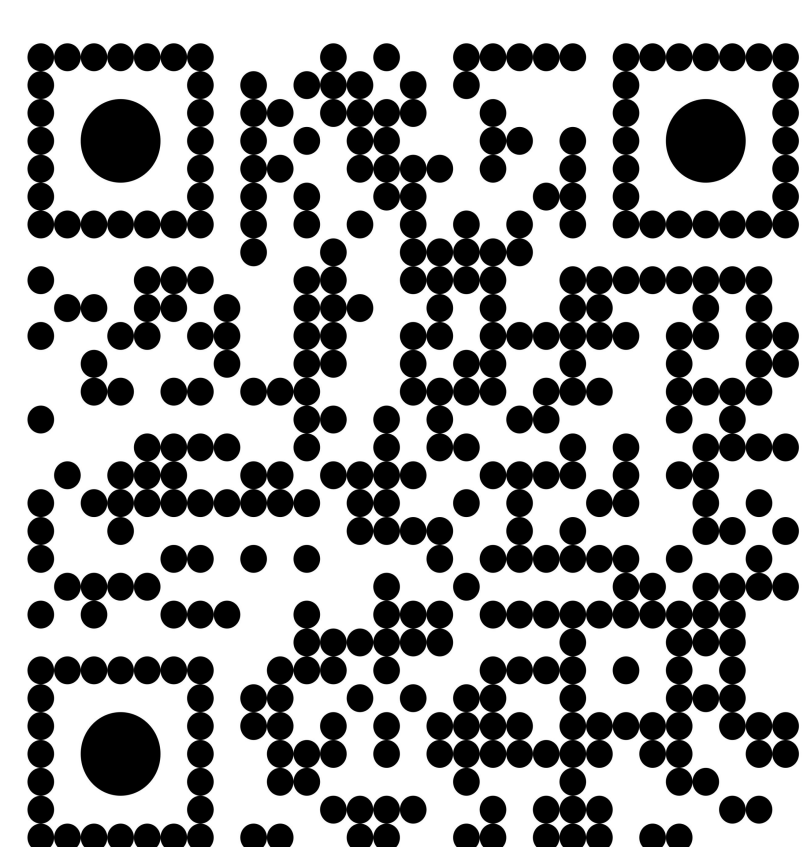
- ❑ The study investigated the **behavioral intention to use RAT** and **associated factors** among Hong Kong older adults aged ≥ 65 years in two scenarios;
 - i) Using RAT regularly for **health status monitoring** without any symptoms, and
 - ii) RAT use when **having COVID-19-like symptoms**

Methods

- ❑ Study design: A **population-based random telephone survey**
- ❑ Participants and data collection: **370 Chinese-speaking adults aged ≥ 65 years** and data was collected through **telephone interviews** (11 May—11 July 2022)
- ❑ Analyses: **Multiple logistic regression-** assessed the associations



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Results

- ❑ Of the 370 participants, **90.3% had used RAT**, of which **21.6% obtained positive results**
- ❑ The **common challenges** faced when using RAT included:
 - ✓ **Difficulty choosing the right RAT kit**,
 - ✓ **Uncertainty about how to use RAT**, and
 - ✓ **Not knowing what to do after getting a positive result**
- ❑ For behavioral intention;
 - ✓ **27.3% intended to use RAT regularly for health status monitoring** without any symptoms, while
 - ✓ **87.0% if they had COVID-19-like symptoms**

Factors associated with behavioural intention

- ❑ In both scenarios the following were associated with **higher behavioral intention** to use RAT;
 - ✓ **Positive attitudes**,
 - ✓ **Perceiving significant others would support** them using RAT,
 - ✓ **Belief that RAT health promotion materials were helpful** to understand how to use RAT and
 - ✓ **Thoughtful consideration of the veracity** of COVID-19 specific information
- ❑ **Having negative attitudes** toward RAT was associated with the **lower intention of RAT use only when having no symptoms**.

Conclusions

Addressing difficulties faced when using RAT, **strengthening positive attitudes**, involving **significant others** and empowering with **adequate information-veracity evaluating skills** are potentially vital strategies to increase RAT use among older adults

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