



Press Release

Taipei District Prosecutors Office

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prosecutor on the suspicious COVID 19 death case contacted the local health department about any clinical or epidemiological conditions that require quarantine to avoid any loophole in disease prevention and health maintenance for citizens.

The prosecutor received a police report of suspicious COVID 19 death on Feb.23, 2020(the first suspicious case in the district). Due to lack of medical records or travel and social history, the prosecutor was seeking clinical and epidemiological information of the person that require quarantine or that should have been under quarantine. At least five times, the Office has contacted the Disease Control Unit, Government Ethic officials and the Health Inspection staff of the Taipei Department of Health for relevant information. The Department replied that the person was not on any quarantine lists and there was no precedent for the Department to assist an on-site examination. On the same day, the reporting police also informed the hotline “1922” and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) of the death up to four times. The hotline replied that “messages have been forwarded” while the CDC replied that “there is no need to report the case if it has no quarantine or self-isolation circumstances. Forensic doctors can

report it after they found anything abnormal.”

The prosecutor continued investigating all avenues and went on to inspect the body on Feb.24, 2020, including looking into the person’s colleagues, their travel histories and work environment. After discussion and joint analysis with forensic examiners on Feb.25, the prosecutor issued a temporary death certificate to the person’s family on Feb.26. Because the person was young and had some cold and fever recent days, yet without any body injury and no significant or chronic diseases shown on records, the actual cause of death remains unclear. Considering one colleague of the person just came back from overseas and their work has a connection with the cross-border entry, the prosecutor needs to confirm the real cause of death quickly and accurately.