

**Actions to be taken by the Health, Welfare and Food Bureau, Department of Health
and the Hospital Authority
*at Alert Level Response***

Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

- to closely monitor the situation overseas and in Hong Kong;
- to monitor implementation of response actions;
- to re-assess the Government's preparedness to cope with a deterioration of the situation and to take necessary actions to augment any inadequacy;
- to formulate communication plans to -
 - remind all sectors to adhere to preventive measures and/or give clear guidance on any additional preventive measures needed; and
 - keep the community closely informed of developments.

Department of Health

(a) SARS case outside HK	(b) SARS Alert in HK
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • proactively contact the affected country/area for first-hand information. If the affected area is a close neighbour, the Department of Health may organise an expert team comprising representatives of the Department, the Health, Welfare and Food Bureau and the Hospital Authority to visit the affected area to collect more information; • disseminate the information obtained and provide clear guidance to the Hospital Authority, private hospitals, doctors in private practice, relevant institutions, tourist agencies etc.; • review and step up port health measures in relation to the affected country and pay special attention to incoming and outgoing passengers from the affected country/area; and • monitor statistics of passengers coming from the affected area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provide rapid and accurate diagnostic laboratory support to promptly confirm or exclude the presence of the SARS virus in clinical specimens; • conduct prompt and comprehensive contact tracing, even before laboratory results are available. Contacts of symptomatic staff/patients will be put under home confinement and medical surveillance; • station experienced staff at the affected facility for close communication and supervision regarding infection control, contact tracing, and outbreak monitoring; • provide accurate updates to private hospitals, doctors in private practice, schools and other relevant institutions, tourist agencies etc. on the most current situation and provide clear guidance on the extra preventive measures to be taken; • require private hospitals and elderly homes to enhance surveillance and reporting of SARS; • require private hospitals and residential care homes to re-assess their readiness to deal with any suspected SARS case, infection control measures, manpower provision and stock supply; • notify Guangdong and Macao health authorities, relevant consulates, and liaise with other international health agencies; and • review and step up necessary border control measures for both incoming and outgoing passengers.

Hospital Authority

(a) SARS case outside HK	(b) SARS Alert in HK
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the Hospital Authority’s Central Committee on Infectious Diseases will closely monitor the situation and maintain close contact with the Government for updated information; • reinforce infection control measures amongst hospitals; and • monitor newly-admitted patients with a recent history of travelling to the affected area/country. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the Chief Executive of the Hospital Authority will activate the Hospital Authority Central Command Committee for SARS; • eSARS Registry (to collect information on patients under observation, suspected and confirmed SARS patients) will be activated and opened to the Department of Health; • progress and outcome of patients will be closely monitored; • the relevant hospital’s infection control team, headed by the Cluster Chief Executive with a representative from the Department of Health as a member, will investigate the outbreak and report to the Hospital Authority Head Office; • patient and inpatient contacts will be isolated in appropriate areas; • infection control measures in the affected hospital(s) will be upgraded to the level of ‘SARS’, including restriction on visiting and use of enhanced personal protective gear; • decision on stopping admissions to and/or discharges from the affected ward(s) will be made by the Cluster Chief Executive; • maintain close communication with the private sector and other care providers regarding personal precautionary measures, nature of the disease, treatment outcome and control of the outbreak; and • where appropriate, a dedicated communication group for the outbreak will be set up.

