

**Actions to be taken by the Health, Welfare and Food Bureau,
Department of Health, the Hospital Authority and other sectors
*at Level 1 Response – one or more local laboratory-confirmed SARS cases***

Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

- to co-ordinate inter-departmental response actions decided upon by the Steering Committee and monitor implementation of these actions;
- to closely monitor the development of the case(s);
- to closely monitor the investigative work undertaken by the Multi-disciplinary Response Team;
- to re-assess Government's preparedness to cope with a deterioration of the situation and to take necessary actions to augment any inadequacy as directed by the Steering Committee; and
- to formulate communication plans according to the strategy set by the Steering Committee to -
 - remind all sectors to adhere to preventive measures and/or give clear guidance on any additional preventive measures needed; and
 - keep the local and international community closely informed of developments.

Department of Health

In addition to measures taken at the Alert level, the Department of Health will –

- continue home confinement of family contacts of SARS cases;
- launch SARS building list on SARS website;
- lead the Multi-disciplinary Response Team to investigate and disinfect buildings inhabited by SARS cases within 24 hours;
- set up telephone hotlines manned by professional staff to address public enquiries;
- step up health advice in collaboration with the Information Services Department;
- step up inspection to elderly homes to ensure adequate infection control measures;
- remind private hospitals and private practitioners to notify the Department of Health promptly of any suspected SARS case and of the way to handle a suspected SARS case before the case is assessed by the Department of Health or

- the Hospital Authority; and
- require private hospitals to audit the hospital infection control measures.

Hospital Authority

The Hospital Authority Central Command Committee for SARS will have already been in operation. In addition to measures taken at the Alert level, the Hospital Authority will –

- upgrade infection control measure in all Hospital Authority to the level of ‘SARS’, including restriction on visiting and use of enhanced personal protective gear;
- mobilise hospitals in accordance with a staged response plan to admit confirmed and suspected patients. Details of the plan are at ***Appendix 1***;
- implement the service re-organisation plan to dovetail with the plan on patient mobilisation to ensure essential services will not be affected;
- activate the Hospital Authority Business Support Sub-command Centre to co-ordinate the procurement and distribution of supplies that are in high demand as well as the collection of feedbacks;
- monitor and assess continuously the trend of outbreak and possible implications to service and adjust the service reorganisation plan accordingly; and
- discuss with private hospitals and practitioners the provision of medical services and sharing of workload where necessary.

Schools

should a student or a staff member be suspected or confirmed to have contracted SARS

- suspend classes for 10 days;
- cleanse and disinfect school premises according to Department of Health instructions.

should a suspected or confirmed SARS patient be a household contact of a student or staff member

- require the student or staff member to stay away from school for home confinement for 10 days.

Residential care homes for the elders and people with disabilities

should a resident or staff be suspected or confirmed to have contracted SARS

- the residents will be subject to in-situ confinement for 10 days; and
- cleanse and disinfect the home premises according to the Department of Health instructions.

Other Government facilities

should a SARS patient be a staff member

- the facility or premises will be cleansed and disinfected and/or temporarily closed.

Communication with the public and the media

- daily updates of the situation will be provided to the public and the media; and
- other means of communication, e.g. special bulletins on the Government homepage, will be used to keep the community informed as directed by the Steering Committee.

Communication with the international community

- provide frequent updates of the situation to consular corps;
- Economic and Trade Offices overseas will provide updates on Hong Kong's situation to foreign countries.