

**For information
on 16 April 2003**

LegCo Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene

Territory-Wide Cleansing Day to Combat Atypical Pneumonia (AP)

(全民清潔保健行動日)

Purpose

To inform Members on a mass scale community participation event, namely, the Territory-Wide Cleansing Day (全民清潔保健行動日) to be held on 19 April 2003(Sat) and 20 April 2003 (Sun). The objectives of this event are:

- (a) to demonstrate the determination, the concerted effort and solidarity of the community in fighting the disease;
- (b) to physically clean up various types of environmental hygiene blackspots (this effort has already started and will be sustained after the weekend);
- (c) to arouse the awareness of the public to the importance of environmental hygiene, the blackspots in their districts, how such blackspots can be removed; and
- (d) to demonstrate the care and concern of our community towards those in need, e.g. singleton elderly.

General Principles

2. In general, we will adopt the following:

- (a) Since the outbreak of AP, departments concerned have been making efforts to improve environmental hygiene. For instance,

efforts made by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department are summarized at Annex I. We appreciate that this must sustain and as such, District Officers will co-ordinate and work with departments concerned to ensure that the latter will continue to work out their own detailed cleansing programmes and implement them. District Officers will also continue to encourage the local community to mount various cleansing programmes;

- (b) To demonstrate concerted efforts of the entire community in combating AP, each district will, taking into account its characteristics, stage major “cleansing” events during the Easter weekend.
- (c) A wide cross section of the community will be involved in these district events. For example:
 - (1) District Councils/Area Committees /Rural Committees;
 - (2) Clean Hong Kong District Promotion Committee comprising representatives from all 18 districts;
 - (3) Hong Kong Council of Social Service, Non-government organizations and charitable organisations;
 - (4) Community Support Committee (A committee formed under the convenorship of Ms Rosanna Wong and comprising NGOs, media, etc. to support Government’s Territory-Wide Cleansing Day);
 - (5) Owners’ Corporations/ Mutual Aid Committees/ other residents associations;
 - (6) private management companies and the Association of Property Management Companies;
 - (7) media;
 - (8) volunteer groups e.g. civil service volunteer groups; and
 - (9) other local organisations, eg. Yin Ngai Society and Kaifong Associations, etc.

Strategy

- 3. Our strategy is to organise a variety of “cleansing” events and

suitably publicize them so as to arouse the attention of all members of the public to concerted community efforts to combat AP through keeping the environment clean. We would cover in the weekend events all districts, a great variety of venues (ranging from public housing, private housing, environmental hygiene blackspots, to social/ educational institutions and commercial premises), as well as engaging all sectors (ranging from government departments, local organizations to voluntary agencies.). Details are as follows:

A. Location/ Venues

(a) Multi-storey buildings

- (1) public housing
- (2) common parts of private housing

(b) Environmental blackspots

- (1) problematic lanes - removal of refuse, pest control and handling of choked drains
- (2) problematic private streets/lanes - removal of refuse, pest control and handling of choked drains

(c) Social and educational institutions

- (1) elderly hostels
- (2) hostels for disabled
- (3) schools

(d) Commercial premises

- (1) markets
- (2) restaurants

(3) shopping centres

(4) office buildings

B. Concerned Parties

(a) Govt Depts (under the ambit of HPLB, HAB, HWFB, ETWB, EMB)

(1) Education and Manpower Bureau

(2) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

(3) Housing Department

(4) Home Affairs Department

(5) Drainage Services Department

(6) Buildings Department

(7) Leisure and Cultural Services Department

(8) Lands Department, etc.

(b) From the Community

See para 2(c) above.

4. Based on the unique characteristics of individual districts, proposals on the major events to be organised in the 18 districts will be drawn up. A tentative proposal is at Annex II.

Resources

5. In principle, relevant expenses will be absorbed by various government departments.

Longer Term Plans

6. The Territory-Wide Cleansing Day is to highlight the concerted efforts by the entire community in combating AP. All these cleansing efforts should continue. Government departments concerned will continue to discharge their responsibilities, and encourage various sectors of the community to join hands, in keeping the environment clean.

Home Affairs Department
April 2003

Measures being/will be undertaken by Food and Environmental Hygiene Department in compelling Atypical Pneumonia

- We have intensified our efforts in street washing by increasing the number of street washing vehicles from 74 to 96 since 28 March 2003, targeting particularly environmental hygiene blackspots and township areas. Diluted bleach is also applied in street washing so as to enhance the disinfection effect.
- To achieve a better deterrent effect, we have summonsed alleged offenders on spitting to appear in Court instead of issuing them the \$600 fixed penalty tickets. 105 summonses have been issued between 28 March and 13 April 2003.
- We have issued guidelines on disinfection to all households and building management companies in early April and are arranging joint seminars with the Department of Health to promote cleansing and disinfection of households and common parts of buildings. We will continue to offer updated advice if and where necessary to them.
- Beginning from 19 April, we will proactively inspect common parts of high-rise private buildings to identify sanitary and pest nuisances particularly in areas like canopies, lightwells, refuse chutes, and give them advice on ways of cleansing, disinfection and pest control. We will undertake enforcement actions if such problems are not rectified properly. We will also continue similar inspections on and give similar advice to restaurants.
- We are also working jointly with the Home Affairs Department to draw up a list of environmental hygiene blackspots (e.g. rear lanes) across the territory for cleanup actions in the coming months.

Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
April 2003

Territory-wide Cleansing Campaign (全民清潔保健行動日)

Location/Venue	Parties Concerned		District(s)
	Government Departments	Non-Government Organisations	
Multi-storey Buildings			
(1) Public Housing	Housing Department	NGO (Cleaning up households of singleton elderly – HD to contact)	To be determined.
(2) Private Housing	Home Affairs Department (with FEHD as necessary)	Owners' Corporation/Mutual Aid Committee/Residents' Association/building management	To be determined.
(3) Environmental Black Spots	Food and Environmental Hygiene Department, Drainage Services Department, Buildings Department, Home Affairs Department, Lands Department	Owners' Corporation/Mutual Aid Committee/management companies of the nearby buildings	To be determined.

Location/Venue	Parties Concerned		District(s)
	Government Departments	Non-Government Organisations	
(4) Private Streets	Drainage Services Department, Food and Environmental Hygiene Department, Home Affairs Department, Buildings Department	Owners of the private street	To be determined.
(5) Social and Educational Institutions			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schools 	e.g. Education and Manpower Bureau	e.g. Parent-teacher Association of schools	To be determined.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hostels for disabled • Elderly hostels 	e.g. Social Welfare Department		To be determined.
(6) Commercial Premises	Food and Environmental Hygiene Department, Home Affairs Department	Licensee of restaurant or building management companies	To be determined.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Markets • Restaurants • Shopping centers • Commercial buildings 			

Location/Venue	Parties Concerned		District(s)
	Government Departments	Non-Government Organisations	
(7) LCSD venues	Leisure and Cultural Services Department		To be determined.