

**For information  
on 16 April 2003**

**LegCo Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene**

**Territory-wide Cleansing and Disinfection Work as a Measure  
to Combat Atypical Pneumonia in Public Housing Estates**

**PURPOSE**

To inform Members of the measures taken by the Housing Department to address the concern about outbreak of Atypical Pneumonia (AP) in public housing estates.

**MEASURES TAKEN BY THE DEPARTMENT**

**I Improve Environmental Hygiene**

- a) To step up cleansing and disinfection work in all housing estates which include:
  - i. thorough cleansing and disinfection of common areas of all estates, commercial centres and car parks, using diluted bleach solution once a week;
  - ii. cleansing and disinfection of lift cars, escalators, especially the control panels and handrails, with diluted bleach solution no less than four times daily;
  - iii. cleansing and disinfection of playground equipment, recreation facilities and public latrines with diluted bleach solution not less than twice a day;
  - iv. cleansing and disinfection of refuse/junk collection points right after refuse/junk collection;

- v. cleansing and disinfection of sewage and drainage systems;
  - vi. strengthening rodent and pest control in collaboration with Food and Environmental Hygiene Department; and
  - vii. closely monitor the performance of cleansing contractors.
- b) To ensure proper maintenance of estate facilities by:
- i. intensive detection of building defects especially leaking soil, waste and rainwater drain pipes as well as water supply pipes;
  - ii. urgent repairs to building defects;
  - iii. prompt inspection and subsequent clearance to drain blockage, vent pipe chokage and drainage backflows;
  - iv. tracing the source of accumulation of foul water/smell with subsequent repairs and clean-up;
  - v. thorough clean-up of work sites of maintenance contractors;
  - vi. ensuring effective operation of ventilation fans of lift cars; and
  - vii. increasing the volume of fresh air intake of the central air conditioning plants for better air circulation in commercial centres.
- c) To carry out special cleansing operations to support the Government's appeal to arouse the awareness of the public to the importance of environmental hygiene, which include:
- i. special cleansing operation in every public housing estate

carried out on 30 March 2003; and

- ii. mobilization of Estate Management Advisory Committees, Mutual Aid Committees to actively participate in the Territory-wide Cleansing Day to be held on 19 April 2003.

## **II Dissemination of Health Advice to Residents**

### **a) Community Promotion Activities**

We will liaise with medical professionals and voluntary agencies to hold seminars/talks in estates to brief the residents on the importance of personal and environmental hygiene. Health advice will also be provided.

### **b) Publicizing messages on AP**

- i. to put up posters on AP and health advice in large prints in ground floor lift lobbies of all domestic blocks and commercial centres;
- ii. to distribute pamphlets on general health advice and household disinfection guidelines to every household; and
- iii. to include messages on health advice in estate newsletters which are distributed to all households periodically.

## **III Out-reaching Services to Elderly Households**

In view of the large number of elderly persons living in public rental housing estates who are highly vulnerable to the disease, the Housing Department, in collaboration with the Social Welfare Department, the Home Affairs Department and non-governmental organizations, will visit all elderly households to :

- i. explain and remind the elderly of the importance of personal and environmental hygiene;

- ii. provide them with bleach for cleansing and disinfection;
- iii. provide clean-up services if needed; and
- iv. provide counseling services to ease the emotional and psychological concern of the elderly.

## **IMPLEMENTATION**

A set of action plans have been developed and issued to all estates for implementation. We would closely monitor the situation and render assistance to tenants in public housing estates to combat against the disease where necessary.

Housing Department  
April 2003