LegCo Panel on Health Services

**Collaboration on Infectious Disease Surveillance among
Guangdong Province, Hong Kong and Macao**

Purpose

This paper provides an update on the collaboration among Guangdong Province, Hong Kong and Macao health authorities on the surveillance of infectious diseases.

Background

2.　　　　With the increasing volume of travel between the Mainland, Macao and Hong Kong, it is necessary for the health authorities of Hong Kong to acquire an understanding of the pattern of infectious diseases and related information occurring in the three places so that timely disease prevention and control measures can be put in place.　Enhancing communication and collaboration with the Mainland and Macao can strengthen the prevention, monitoring and control measures for infectious diseases.

3.　　　　Hong Kong has established a longstanding arrangement with Guangdong and Macao for sharing of experience and exchange of information on infectious diseases through mail, fax, telephone and email.　Ad hoc meetings, visits and seminars are convened whenever necessary to foster collaboration for disease surveillance.

Current Situation

Expert Group Meeting and Infectious diseases notification mechanism

4.　　　　The Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) outbreaks in Guangdong and Hong Kong early this year called for urgent action to establish more effective communication channels between the two places to enable prompt and timely exchange of important information about infectious disease outbreaks and incidents.　Expert groups from the two sides met in April and agreed to enhance the SARS notification mechanism for regular exchange of

latest information, including statistics, clinical treatment, epidemiology and progress on research.

5.   Further meetings were held with the participation of Macao Health Bureau since May.   The list of notifiable diseases was expanded to cover seven infectious diseases, namely SARS, AIDS, dengue fever, influenza, tuberculosis, cholera and malaria. The list was further expanded in June to include Japanese encephalitis when cases of such disease were reported in Guangdong.   In August, Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao agreed to enhance collaboration in the following areas:

- Exchanging information about the statutory notifiable diseases of the three places on a monthly basis (Annex).   The three places also agreed to expand the list of notifiable diseases to cover infectious diseases of concern as and when necessary;

- Promptly reporting to the other two places sudden upsurge of any infectious diseases of unknown nature or of public health significance; and

- Establishing a point-to-point information exchange mechanism.

Liaison with the Mainland and Macao

6.   In addition to expert group meetings, the Health, Welfare and Food Bureau, Department of Health (DH) and Hospital Authority (HA) maintain close communication with the Ministry of Health, Health Department of the Guangdong Province and Macao Health Bureau etc. on the prevention and treatment of infectious diseases:

- At the Hong Kong-Guangdong Cooperation Joint Conference held in August and the Hong Kong/Shanghai economic and trade cooperation meeting held in October, there were exchanges on strengthening collaboration with these two places on health matters;

- At the Joint Conference of the Senior Health Officials of the Mainland, Hong Kong and Macao held on 25-26 October, the three sides exchanged views and shared experience on the control of infectious diseases;

- Health officials of the three places visit each other to enhance communication and collaboration on health matters of common concern; and

- Professional exchanges between DH/HA with the Mainland and Macao counterparts on the prevention and treatment of infectious diseases.

The Way Forward

7.   The experts of Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao will continue to hold regular meetings to discuss further exchange of information and collaboration to prevent outbreak of infectious diseases in the three places. There is also a need to develop and consolidate within the Pearl River Delta region an infectious disease surveillance network for SARS and other infectious diseases of public health significance. In this connection, in planning the Centre for Health Protection, we will develop a disease surveillance information system with focus on infectious diseases in the region. We also have plans to collaborate jointly with Guangdong and Macao health departments to develop a customized electronic HIV epidemiology platform that is readily accessible by public health professionals in the Pearl River Delta region.   With the strengthened surveillance network, prevention and control of infectious diseases will be more effective and better coordinated in Hong Kong.

8.   Members are invited to note and comment on the enhanced surveillance mechanism for infectious diseases.

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Statutory notifiable infectious diseases of Hong Kong

1. Tuberculosis*
2. Acute Poliomyelitis
3. Amoebic Dysentery
4. Bacillary Dysentery
5. Chickenpox
6. Cholera*
7. Dengue Fever *
8. Diphtheria
9. Food Poisoning
10. Legionnaires' Disease
11. Leprosy
12. Malaria*
13. Measles
14. Meningococcal Infections
15. Mumps
16. Paratyphoid Fever
17. Plague
18. Rabies
19. Relapsing Fever
20. Rubella
21. Scarlet Fever
22. Tetanus
23. Typhoid Fever
24. Typhus
25. Viral Hepatitis
26. Whooping Cough
27. Yellow Fever
28. Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome *

* These 5 infectious diseases are included in the 8 infectious diseases covered
by the notification mechanism agreed by Guangdong, Hong Kong and
Macao prior to August 2003.

Statutory notifiable infectious diseases of the Mainland

1. Plague
2. Cholera*
3. Viral Hepatitis
4. Dysentery : Bacillary Dysentery and Amebic Dysentery
5. Typhoid Fever and Paratyphoid Fever
6. HIV/AIDS*
7. Gonorrhea
8. Syphilis
9. Poliomyelitis
10. Measles
11. Whooping Cough
12. Diphtheria
13. Epidemic Cerebrospinal Meningitis
14. Scarlet Fever
15. Epidemic Hemorrhagic Fever (EHF)
16. Rabies
17. Leptospirosis
18. Brucellosis
19. Anthrax
20. Urban and Epidemic Typhus
21. Epidemic Encephalitis B*
22. Kala-Azar
23. Malaria*
24. Dengue Fever*
25. Neonatal Tetanus
26. Tuberculosis of Lungs*
27. Infectious Atypical Pneumonia (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome)*

* These 7 infectious diseases are included in the 8 infectious diseases covered by the notification mechanism agreed by Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao prior to August 2003.

Statutory notifiable infectious diseases of Macao

1. Cholera*
2. Typhoid Fever and Paratyphoid Fever
3. Other Salmonella Infection (excluding Typhoid Fever and Paratyphoid Fever)
4. Shigellosis (including Bacillary Dysentery)
5. Intestinal E. Coli Infections
6. Bacterial Food Intoxication (including staphylococcal and botulism poisoning, excluding Typhoid Fever, Paratyphoid Fever, other Salmonella Infection, Shigellosis and Intestinal E. Coli Infections)
7. Amoebiasis (including Acute Amoebic Dysentery)
8. Tuberculosis (all types)*
9. Plague
10. Leprosy
11. Tetanus (all types)
12. Diphtheria
13. Whooping Cough
14. Scarlet Fever
15. Meningococcal Infections (with or without Meningitis)
16. Legionnaires' Disease
17. H. Influenzae Infection (with or without Meningitis)
18. Syphilis
19. Gonococcal Infections
20. Lymphogranuloma Venereum
21. Other STD (excluding Syphilis, Gonococcal Infections, Lymphogranuloma Venereum and HIV Diseases)
22. Trachoma
23. Acute Poliomyelitis
24. Rabies
25. Dengue Fever (including Dengue Haemorrhagic Fever)*
26. Yellow Fever
27. Varicella (Chickenpox)
28. Measles
29. Rubella (German Measles) (all types)
30. Viral Hepatitis (all types)
31. HIV Diseases (including Asymptomatic HIV Infection and AIDS)*
32. Mumps
33. Malaria (all types)*

* These 5 infectious diseases are included in the 8 infectious diseases covered by the notification mechanism agreed by Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao prior to August 2003.