

For information

Legislative Council Panel on Health Services

Notification of Infectious Diseases between the Mainland and Hong Kong

Purpose

This paper updates Members on the notification system between the Mainland and Hong Kong health authorities in respect of infectious diseases.

Background

2. With the increasing volume of travel between the Mainland and Hong Kong, it is necessary for the health authorities of Hong Kong and Mainland to forge a close communication network in respect of infectious diseases so that necessary disease prevention and control measures can be put in place in a timely manner.

Notification Mechanism

3. The Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) outbreaks in Guangdong and Hong Kong last year called for urgent actions to establish more effective communication channels between the two places to enable timely exchange of important information about infectious disease incidents and outbreaks. Experts from the Guangdong Province and Hong Kong agreed in April 2003 to enhance the SARS notification mechanism for regular exchange of latest information, including statistics, clinical treatment and progress of epidemiological research. The arrangement was subsequently extended to cover Macao in May 2003.

4. The Tripartite Meeting of Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Expert Group on Prevention and Treatment of Infectious Diseases met several times since May 2003 and agreed to enhance cooperation in the following areas -

- (a) exchanging information about notifiable diseases (32 in Hong Kong)

of the three places on a monthly basis (see Annexes A, B and C for the relevant notifiable diseases in Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao respectively), and infectious diseases of concern as and when necessary;

- (b) promptly reporting among the three places sudden upsurge of infectious diseases of unknown nature or of public health significance;
- (c) establishing point-to-point communication with health authorities in Guangdong, e.g. the Guangdong Province Health Department, the Guangdong Province Center for Disease Control and Prevention and the Centre for Health Protection, via phone and/or fax;
- (d) arranging mutual visits to deepen each others' understanding of public health work on infectious diseases; and
- (e) maintaining regular reporting between Guangdong and Hong Kong regarding the latest SARS situation.

5. Therefore, under the existing mechanism, outbreaks in Guangdong on diseases like SARS, Avian Influenza and Dengue Fever, etc. will be made known to Hong Kong on a timely basis.

6. Moreover, since the SARS outbreak last year, the Department of Health (DH) has also been maintaining close contact with the Mainland Ministry of Health (MoH), which provides Hong Kong with a monthly summary of information on infectious diseases as well as information on important outbreak situation in other parts of the Mainland. The network covers any diseases of significant public health concern. The small-scale SARS outbreak in Beijing and Anhui in April this year confirmed that this arrangement was working satisfactorily.

Higher Level Liaison

7. Senior health officials of the Mainland, Hong Kong and Macao also meet on a regular basis to exchange latest information and enhance collaboration in respect of the prevention and control of infectious diseases. The Third Joint Meeting of Senior Health Officials of the Mainland, Hong Kong and Macao was held in Hong Kong on 15 and 16 October 2004. The health authorities of the three sides conducted frank and constructive discussions and shared their latest work experience in public health, prevention of infectious diseases, and monitoring of food hygiene. The meeting also reaffirmed the importance of timely exchange of information.

Way Forward

8. The Administration is keenly aware of the importance to maintain close liaison with the Mainland authorities in order that we respond swiftly to any potential outbreak situations. The Administration will keep our communication network with the Mainland under close review, with a view to further refining the arrangements for the protection of public health if necessary.
9. This paper is for Members' information.

**Health, Welfare and Food Bureau
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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. Gonorrhoea
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. 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 diseases are included in the 8 infectious diseases specified by the notification mechanism agreed by Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao.

Influenza is not statutory notifiable infectious disease but should be reported under the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao notification mechanism.

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 *
29. Influenza A (H5)
30. Japanese Encephalitis*

* These 6 diseases are included in the 8 infectious diseases specified by the notification mechanism agreed by Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao.

AIDS and **Influenza** are not statutory notifiable infectious diseases but should be reported under the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao notification mechanism.

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. Plauge
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 diseases are included in the 8 infectious diseases specified by the notification mechanism agreed by Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao.

SARS, Japanese Encephalitis and Influenza are not statutory notifiable infectious diseases but should be reported under the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao notification mechanism.