



中華人民共和國香港特別行政區政府總部食物及衛生局
Food and Health Bureau, Government Secretariat
The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
The People's Republic of China

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Miss Mary SO
Clerk to Panel on Health Services
Legislative Council
Legislative Council Building
8 Jackson Road
Central
Hong Kong

Dear Miss So,

**Meeting of Legislative Council Panel on Health Services on 10 March 2008
Surveillance of communicable diseases in Hong Kong –
key trends and follow up**

At the meeting of the Legislative Council Panel on Health Services on 10 March 2008, the Administration reported on the surveillance of communicable diseases in Hong Kong, some key trends observed in recent years, and the future plans to strengthen communicable disease surveillance. A member requested information on the estimated total reduction in hospital admission of elders aged 65 and above should all of them be provided with influenza vaccinations, and the number of additional beds and wards opened to cope with the surge in demand for public hospital services due to seasonal influenza. The Administration's response is as follows –

The estimated total reduction in hospital admission of elders aged 65 and above should all of them be provided with influenza vaccinations

It is difficult to estimate precisely the total reduction in hospital admission in Hong Kong should all elders aged 65 and above be provided with influenza vaccinations as this will be affected by a number of factors. These include the coverage of the vaccine, vaccine effectiveness in the local elderly population, the degree of matching of the vaccine strain with the circulating strain, etc.

The number of additional beds and wards opened to cope with the surge in demand for public hospital services due to seasonal influenza

The Hospital Authority has an established mechanism to accommodate additional patients admitted during the peak of seasonal influenza. Extra beds will be added both in acute and convalescent hospitals. As at 12 March 2008, a total of 547 beds were added in different clusters to accommodate the extra demand from paediatric and medical patients. Breakdown is as follows:

(i)	Hong Kong East Cluster:	66 beds
(ii)	Hong Kong West Cluster:	40 beds
(iii)	Kowloon Central Cluster:	61 beds
(iv)	Kowloon East Cluster:	22 beds
(v)	Kowloon West Cluster:	37 beds
(vi)	New Territories East Cluster:	228 beds
(vii)	New Territories West Cluster:	93 beds

Yours sincerely,



(Miss Pamela LAM)
for Secretary for Food and Health

c.c.

Director of Health (Attn : Dr Thomas TSANG, Dr Cindy LAI)
Chief Executive, Hospital Authority (Attn: Dr LIU Shao-haei)