

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

**Early events: communication between
the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government and
the health authorities in Guangdong Province, handling of the case of
[REDACTED] (from Guangdong) by Kwong Wah Hospital and
the outbreak at [REDACTED]**

"AA"

"M Hotel"

**List of written information to be obtained from
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau/Department of Health (DH)**

- (a) After DH had requested private hospitals to notify severe Community-Acquired Pneumonia (CAP) cases, did St Paul's Hospital comply with the DH's request and notify DH when it admitted a severe CAP patient (the Canadian tourist who had stayed at [REDACTED]) on 8 March 2003?

"M Hotel"

On 13 February 2003, the Department of Health (DH) asked private hospitals to report any new cases of severe CAP, defined as CAP cases admitted to Intensive Care Unit/ High Dependency Unit or put on ventilator. The Canadian tourist who had stayed in Metropole Hotel was in a general ward (not on assisted ventilation) in St. Paul's Hospital (SPH) during period 2 - 8 March. The condition of the patient while in SPH did not fit the description of severe CAP.

The patient was transferred to Queen Mary Hospital on 8 March. The Hospital Authority notified DH on 13 March of this patient as a severe CAP case.

- (b) What were the policy and procedure for allowing a person with infectious disease outside Hong Kong to enter and receive treatment in Hong Kong at the time when the businessman with acute respiratory syndrome was transferred from Hanoi to Hong Kong? How were these policy and procedures followed in the case of this businessman?

Persons with infectious diseases should avoid travel and refrain from using commercial transport. However, they will not be debarred entry into Hong Kong subject to fulfillment of immigration requirement. For infectious diseases listed under the First Schedule of Cap 141 Laws of Hong Kong, any persons having knowledge of such a case should report to the Director of Health or a health officer, who will make arrangements for the case to be conveyed in vehicles or other means of

transport equipped with appropriate infection control facilities to suitable medical treatment facilities. In addition, there are special health control measures for persons coming from areas infected by cholera, plague or yellow fever.

In the case of the businessman transferred from Hanoi to Hong Kong, the Department of Health was informed by the World Health Organization beforehand. We were told that he was having pneumonia and influenza B which were not notifiable under Cap 141. A company specialized in medical evacuation was employed for the transferral. The responsible ambulancemen and the Princess Margaret Hospital had taken all necessary infection control measures during the transportation of the patient.