



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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15 April 2019

Clerk to Panel on Health Services
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central, Hong Kong
(Attn.: Ms Maisie Lam)

Dear Ms Lam,

**Panel on Health Services
Meeting on 15 April 2019
Response to the Letter from Dr Hon Pierre Chan**

Thank you for your letter of 12 April 2019 addressed to the Secretary for Food and Health. Our response to the letter dated 11 April 2019 from Dr Hon Pierre Chan on policy and measures relating to the measles is at **Annex**.

Yours sincerely,

(Ronald Ho)

for Secretary for Food and Health

Encl.

c.c.

Director of Health (Attn.: Dr KH Wong & Dr Amy Chiu)
Secretary for Food and Health's Office (Attn.: Ms Eppie Cheng)

Government's Response to the Policy and Measures Regarding Measles

(a) Immigration measures such as requiring those who will stay in Hong Kong for more than six months to undertake physical examinations and submit complete medical forms, etc.

1. Currently, an effective system for prevention and control of infectious diseases is in place in Hong Kong. In order to provide protection to the local community against infectious diseases, the Department of Health ("DH") coordinates and implements a series of public health programmes covering disease surveillance, outbreak management, health promotion, risk communication, emergency preparedness and contingency planning, infection control, vaccinations, as well as training and research. According to the Prevention and Control of Disease Ordinance (Cap. 599), medical practitioners are required to report suspected and confirmed cases of notifiable infectious diseases to the DH for investigation and follow-up actions as appropriate. The established system for prevention and control of infectious diseases has been effective. The DH will continue to review, from time to time, the mechanism to protect public health.

2. We note that different health authorities will enforce appropriate prevention and control measures in response to their own situations. As for Hong Kong, the proposal to adopt immigration measures (such as the suggestion to require new arrivals to undertake physical examinations) to strengthen prevention and control of communicable diseases involves different policy areas and it should be deliberated holistically by taking various factor into consideration, including its read-across implications. In the long run, we need to discuss with relevant policy bureaux to formulate the government stance as a whole.

(b) Computerisation of paper immunisation records

3. The DH has been capturing electronic immunisation records in the Clinical Information Management System ("CIMS") since 2013. It covers vaccines administered by the DH under the Hong Kong Childhood Immunisation

Programme, the seasonal influenza vaccines under the School Outreach Programme, vaccines under the Government Vaccination Programme and the Vaccination Subsidy Scheme.

4. These electronic immunisation records are currently accessible by the DH staff to facilitate clinical care of our clients. The same information is also available to the healthcare workers in the Hospital Authority (“HA”) and the private sector via a sharing platform for individuals who have registered with electronic health record sharing system (“eHRSS”) managed by the Food and Health Bureau. The DH is planning to enhance the CIMS to enable easy retrieval of clients’ immunisation records, which would carry all immunisations administered by the DH.

5. Besides, under Stage Two Development of the eHRSS, a “Patient Portal” will be developed for patients to access some of their health records, including immunisation records. Upon the planned launch of the “Patient Portal” in the second half of 2020, immunisation records which have been uploaded for sharing on the eHRSS will be available on the Portal. These records will cover those provided by the DH, the HA and other healthcare providers which have been given sharing consent by patients.

(c) Study on whether it is feasible to set up vaccination production lines in Greater Bay Area or Hong Kong Science Park

6. Vaccines manufacturers must strictly adhere to the regulations and requirements of the Good Manufacturing Practice of the Pharmaceutical Inspection Co-operation Scheme to ensure the conditions of vaccines, including the standards of safety, efficacy and quality. At present, there is no vaccine manufacturer in Hong Kong. Nevertheless, the Government welcomes vaccine manufacturers to conduct research and develop their vaccines in Hong Kong. The Government is prepared to providing appropriate support and assistance in drug registration and licensing application.