

LegCo Panel on Health Services

Information paper on Travellers' Health Service

Purpose

This paper reports on the introduction of Travellers' Health Service in the Department of Health (DH).

Background

2. In the 1999 Policy Objective booklet on Public Health Programmes, we undertook to set up a Travellers' Health Service in 2000 to offer preventive services for travellers and advice on travel-related health risks.

Travellers' Health Service

3. We plan to introduce Travellers' Health Service in DH's two existing Vaccination Centres (located at Wu Chung House and Canton Road Government Offices) to offer travel-related health advice and preventive medications to people planning to travel outside Hong Kong.

4. Clients attending the Service will be first attended to by a doctor who will provide personalized and destination specific travel health advice. Appropriate immunization against various travel-related infectious diseases e.g. hepatitis A and B, typhoid, meningococcal meningitis, Japanese encephalitis, diphtheria, rabies and tetanus, etc. will be made available. Where appropriate, preventive medications against malaria, and acute mountain sickness will be given. Travel health kits will also be provided.

5. All the preventive services and medications provided by the Travellers' Health Service will be offered to the general public on full cost recovery basis.

6. In addition, DH will enhance provision of travel-related health advice to the tourism industry as well as the general public

through health education outreach programmes and a newly created website dedicated to travel health (website address: < <http://www.info.gov.hk/trhealth> >) which will be launched soon.

Progress

7. We plan to commence service in July 2000.

Department of Health
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