

Notification Mechanism with Mainland China

Existing Mechanism

- Established mechanism on specific communicable diseases (cholera, malaria, viral hepatitis and HIV/AIDS) to monitor trend of these diseases
- For disease outbreaks, communication is by various means such as telephone and fax. For examples, the atypical pneumonia outbreak in Guangdong in February, H5N1 infection in Hong Kong in 2003

Strengthened Mechanism

Meetings since April 2003

- In-depth discussion on public health administration, clinical management, epidemiological investigations and pathological studies on SARS
- Direct information exchange between disease control units, medical sectors and health administrative structures
- Enhance information flow on infectious diseases to include SARS, dengue fever, influenza, AIDS, tuberculosis, JE, cholera and malaria

Collaboration and Coordination with WHO

- Provide regular epidemiological data to WHO
 - Notification of quarantinable diseases e.g. cholera
 - Reporting on influenza, rabies, leprosy and acute flaccid paralysis
 - Reporting on infectious disease outbreaks of global public health significance eg. Influenza A H5N1 infection, SARS
- Designated WHO collaborating centre
- Serve as technical advisers to WHO
- Sponsor WHO workshops/conferences
- Collaborate on research and study
- Technical assistance to Hong Kong

SARS Outbreak

- Prompt reporting of outbreak to WHO
- WHO technical assistance to DH on epidemiology, laboratory and environment issues
- Collaborative studies with WHO e.g. survival of coronavirus studies in Amoy Gardens, air travel, and medical students in PWH
- Regular tele-conference with WHO networks of laboratories
- Government Virus Unit is a WHO SARS Collaborating Centre