

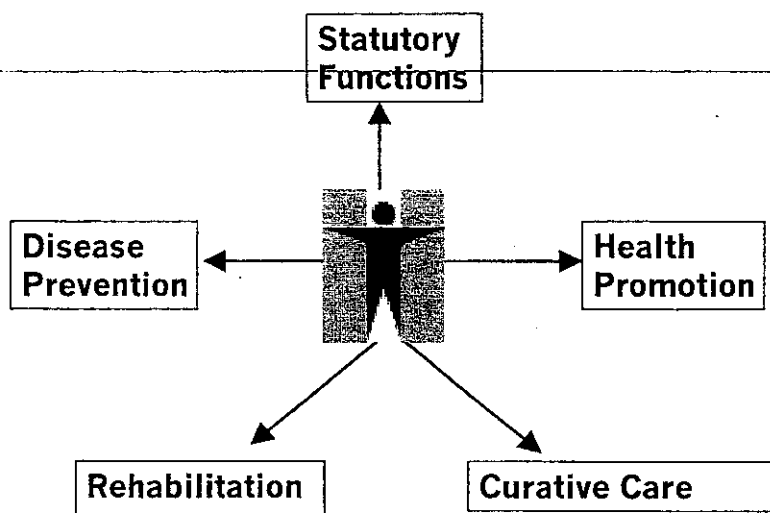


	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Public Health Legislation on Infectious Diseases Control in Hong Kong</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"></p> <p style="text-align: right;">1</p>

	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Presentation Overview</b></p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Existing legislation</li><li>■ Legislative amendments for the control of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS)</li><li>■ International convention &amp; regional initiatives on SARS control</li></ul> <p style="text-align: right;">2</p>

## Current Programme Areas



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## Statutory Functions of Department of Health

- Enforce or support the execution of at least 23 pieces of legislation
- Areas covered include:
  - Infectious disease control
  - Licensing of medical institutions
  - Western and Chinese medicines
  - Registration of health care professionals
  - Tobacco control



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## **Legislation on Infectious Diseases Control in HKSAR**

- Quarantine and Prevention of Disease Ordinance (Cap. 141) and its subsidiary legislation, in particular, the Prevention of the Spread of Infectious Diseases Regulations (Cap. 141B)



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## **Quarantine and Prevention of Disease Ordinance (Cap. 141)**

- Prevent the import and spread of infectious diseases of public health importance
- Based on principles in the International Health Regulations adopted by 4<sup>th</sup> World Health Assembly (WHA) in 1951



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## International Health Regulations (IHR)

- Ensure maximum security against international spread of disease with a minimum interference in world traffic
- Countries required to report 3 quarantinable diseases
  - Cholera
  - Plague
  - Yellow fever



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## Requirements under Cap. 141

- Master of vessel or aircraft should
  - declare absence / presence of infectious diseases
  - allow Health Officers and inspectors to inspect the vessels & examine persons on board
- Persons suspicious of being infected may be removed to a hospital
- Contaminated areas can be disinfected and disinfected
- Contacts may be isolated or being put under surveillance



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## Yellow Fever

- Ships from infected area to proceed to quarantine anchorage
- Health Inspectors to examine vessels for mosquito breeding sites
- Port Health Officers to examine people on board
- Disinsect, fumigate where appropriate



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## Plague

- Vessels from infected port to proceed to quarantine anchorage
- Vessels free from rodents and vector
- Deratting Exemption Certificate/ Deratting Certificate – 6 months validity
- Disinfect, disinsect, fumigate where appropriate



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## Cholera

- Endemic in this part of the world
- Statutory notification
- Medical surveillance



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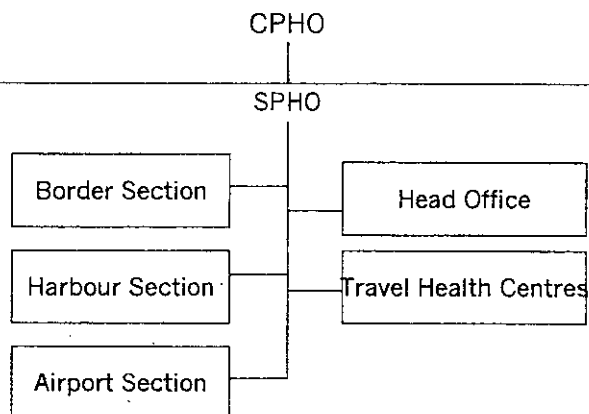
## Port Health Office

- Enforces Cap. 141 and observes the IHR
- Prevents the import of quarantinable diseases into Hong Kong via air, land or sea
- Operates a traveller's health service to offer preventive service for travellers and advises on travel-related risks



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## Organisation of Port Health Office



A team of about 50 staff including doctors, nurses, health inspectors and supporting staff

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## Prevention of the Spread of Infectious Diseases Regulations (Cap. 141B)

- Prevent the spread of infectious diseases within Hong Kong
- Medical practitioners are required to notify infectious diseases stipulated in the First Schedule of Cap 141
- 27 statutory notifiable diseases before SARS



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## Other Disease Surveillance Systems

- Surveillance systems other than statutory notification
  - sentinel surveillance
  - laboratory surveillance
  - monitoring hospital discharges
  - voluntary reporting
  - animal / vector surveillance



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## Surveillance Network for Severe Community Acquired Pneumonia

A surveillance network had been established with hospitals, clinics & lab. in February 2003 for monitoring of Severe Community Acquired Pneumonia, before the WHO named SARS as a disease entity on 15 March 2003



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## Amendment of Legislation

- In view of the impact of SARS on the local community and other places worldwide
- On 27 March 2003, SARS added to the First Schedule to Cap. 141 so that the legal provisions can apply to SARS as well



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## Control Measures on People Arriving in and Leaving Hong Kong

- On 2 April 2003, WHO recommended persons to postpone all but essential traveling to Hong Kong
- A few countries even imposed temporary travel restrictions on Hong Kong residents
- HKSARG has taken further control measures to prevent export and import of SARS



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## Further Amendment of the Legislation

On 17 April 2003, the Prevention of the Spread of Infectious Diseases (Amendment) Regulation 2003 was gazetted and came into force with immediate effect to provide the legal basis for enhanced control measures



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## Power of the Amended Regulations

The provisions of the amended Regulations provide explicit legal power

- To prohibit person who had been exposed to the risk of infection of SARS from departing Hong Kong
- To measure body temperature of and carry out medical examination on people arriving in and leaving Hong Kong



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## Legal Basis of Public Health Measures

<b>Actions</b>	<b>Legal Basis</b>
Statutory notification	Reg 4, Cap 141B
Health declaration	Sec 22, 31 & 34, Cap 141
Household contacts to be removed to hospitals, appointed places or to stay at home	Reg 10, 11 & 12, Cap 141B
Close contacts to attend designated medical centres	Reg 9, Cap 141B

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## Legal Basis of Public Health Measures (2)

<b>Actions</b>	<b>Legal Basis</b>
Isolation of Amoy Gardens	Reg 24, Cap 141B
Removing residents of Amoy Gardens to holiday camps	Reg 10 & 12, Cap 141B
Disinfection of Amoy Gardens	Reg 19, Cap 141B
Prohibit persons with SARS and close contacts from leaving HK	Reg 27A, Cap 141B
Take body temperature & conduct medical exam on persons arriving in or leaving HK	Reg 27C(1) & (2), Cap 141B

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# International Convention & Regional Initiatives



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## International Health Regulations

- Revision of IHR was one of the agenda items in the 56<sup>th</sup> WHA in May 2003
- The revised IHR, expected to be completed by 2005, will lead to
  - a stronger legal framework for global surveillance and reporting of infectious diseases
  - a mechanism by which measures against international spread can be enforced



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## China-ASEAN Joint Declaration

- Leaders of China and Association of the Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) countries met on 29 April and 1 June 2003
- Discussed co-operation between China and ASEAN countries on anti-SARS measures
- Hong Kong as part of the Chinese delegation
- Agreed to
  - jointly adopt an entry-exit quarantine plan
  - establish a co-operation mechanism
  - exchange of information



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## APEC Health Ministers Meeting (28 June 2003)

- Agreed on common actions to contain spread of SARS
- Increase further defences against similar infectious disease outbreak and new threats
- Rebuild the confidence of people in the Asia-Pacific region



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## Follow-up Actions taken by Hong Kong

- HK has fully implemented
  - the Entry-Exit Quarantine Action Plan against SARS agreed by China-ASEAN on 1 June 2003
  - the APEC common actions in fighting SARS in the Health Ministers' Statement adopted on 28 June 2003



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## Way Forward

- Public health legislation is important in outbreak control
- Difficult for legislation to keep pace with emerging infection
- Globalisation requires international commitment and collaboration in outbreak control
- Review of local legislation must take into account the development of the revision of IHR



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**Thank You**



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