

Inter-departmental Action Co-ordination Committee on SARS



[REDACTED]
Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare & Food
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Health, Welfare and Food Bureau
Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

Background

- By late March 2003, daily number of newly confirmed SARS cases increased rapidly
- There was an urgent need to co-ordinate efforts and resources of various Government departments to control the spread of the disease



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Inter-departmental Action Co-ordinating Committee

- Comprises representatives of 6 policy bureaux and about 20 departments
- Chaired by the Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare & Food
- Regular meetings every morning
- Operated from 27 March to 20 May



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Inter-departmental Action Co-ordinating Committee



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Inter-departmental Action Co-ordinating Committee

- Health, Welfare & Food Bureau
- Civil Service Bureau
- Economic Development and Labour Bureau
- Environment, Transport & Works Bureau
- Home Affairs Bureau
- Security Bureau
- Auxiliary Medical Service
- Buildings Department
- Chief Executive's Office
- Civil Aid Service
- Civil Aviation Department
- Correctional Service Department
- Department of Health
- Drainage Services Department
- Electrical & Mechanical Services Department
- Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
- Government Land Transport Agency
- Government Supplies Department
- Home Affairs Department
- Hong Kong Airport Authority
- Hong Kong Police Force
- Housing Department
- Immigration Department
- Information Service Department
- Labour Department
- Leisure and Cultural Services Department
- Marine Department
- Social Welfare Department
- Transport Department



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Inter-departmental Action Co-ordinating Committee

Major Roles of the Committee:

- Co-ordinate and steer emergency actions across bureaux and departments
- Take proactive investigative and remedial actions
- Collate and disseminate information
- Conduct risk assessment
- Provide response measures in dealing with all other SARS-related emergencies



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The Committee in Action

Evacuation of Amoy Gardens Block E



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The Committee in Action

Evacuation of Amoy Gardens Block E

- Since 26 March, a large outbreak of SARS had occurred in Amoy Garden, a residential estate in Kwun Tong District
- By the end of March, over 100 Block E residents were confirmed to have SARS.



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Evacuation of Amoy Gardens Block E (cont)

- In view of the alarming trend, the Government ordered Amoy Gardens Block E to be isolated for a period of 10 days from 31 March. Residents were moved to 3 holiday camps for temporary accommodation until 9 April
 - Before the residents moved back, a comprehensive operation to disinfect the building was conducted.
- Pest control measures were also stepped up.



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Home Confinement Scheme

- All household contacts of confirmed SARS patient are required to undergo home confinement for a maximum of 10 days
- So far, 1,264 persons (from 494 households) had been affected by this requirement, of whom 34 persons were confined to have SARS



The Committee in Action

Temporary Quarters for Health Care Staff

- Two housing blocks, with over 1,000 units, have been turned into temporary quarters for health care staff.
- These units are fitted with basic facilities including beds, television and air-conditioning.



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Port Health Measures

- Health declaration for all incoming travellers
- Temperature screening at the airport, ports and border points were introduced
- Through these measures, 2 passengers were confirmed to have contracted SARS



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The Committee in Action

Tourist Group in Taiwan

- In late April, a Hong Kong tourist group was required to undergo confinement in Taipei after one of its members, a 6-year-old girl, developed fever
- On 29 April, a chartered flight was arranged to fly this tourist group home for further examination and treatment
- Subsequent medical examination during and after the chartered flight confirmed that none of these tourists had contracted SARS



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The Committee in Action

Malaysian Freighter with Sick Crews

- On 2 May, a Malaysian freighter called the Government for assistance after 10 of its crews had developed symptoms suggestive of SARS.
- The freighter entered Hong Kong waters on 4 May. Clinical examination was immediately conducted both on crews and the vessel.
- Fortunately, none of the crews was subsequently confirmed to have SARS.



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Thank You



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