

## For information

## SARS Expert Committee

**Legal backing for public health measures implemented to combat  
Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS)**

The Quarantine and Prevention of Disease Ordinance (Cap. 141) and its subsidiary legislation provide the legislative framework for the quarantine and prevention of communicable diseases of public health importance. The legal backing for public health measures implemented to combat SARS is provided by existing provisions or the making of amendment regulations (marked with asterisk\*\*) as set out below -

<u>Public health measure</u>	<u>Legal instrument</u>	<u>Annex</u>
<i>Adding SARS</i> to the <i>list of infectious diseases</i> specified in the First Schedule to the principal Ordinance so that the provisions of Cap. 141 and its subsidiary legislation can apply to this disease	The Quarantine and Prevention of Disease Ordinance (Amendment of First Schedule) Order 2003 made by the Director of Health (D of H) on 27 March 2003 provides the necessary legal power**	A
Medical practitioners to <i>notify</i> D of H of SARS cases in accordance with Regulation 4 of the Prevention of the Spread of Infectious Diseases Regulation (Cap. 141B)	The Prevention of the Spread of Infectious Diseases Regulations (Amendment of Form) Order 2003 made by D of H on 27 March 2003 provides the necessary legal power**	B
Close contacts of confirmed SARS patients to attend <i>designated medical centres</i> for medical surveillance on a daily basis	Regulation 9 of Cap. 141B	C

<u>Public health measure</u>	<u>Legal instrument</u>	<u>Annex</u>
Household contacts of confirmed and suspected SARS patients may be removed to hospitals or such other place as a health office may appoint e.g. holiday camps, or directed to stay at <i>home</i>	Regulations 10, 11 and 12 of Cap. 141B	D
Persons arriving in Hong Kong to complete <i>health declaration</i> at boundary crossings	Sections 22, 31 and 34 of the principal Ordinance provide statutory powers to require persons arriving in Hong Kong by vessel and aircraft to provide information on their health as required by a health officer; those arriving by land transport are dealt with administratively	E
Empowering authorized persons to <i>take the body temperature</i> of persons arriving in or leaving Hong Kong (including transit passengers)	Regulation 27C(1) of Cap. 141B as introduced through the making of the Prevention of the Spread of Infectious Diseases (Amendment) Regulation 2003 by the Chief Executive in Council on 15 April 2003**	F
Empowering health officers or authorized medical practitioners to carry out <i>medical examination</i> on persons arriving in or leaving Hong Kong (including transit passengers) for the purpose of <i>ascertaining whether the persons concerned are likely to be infected with SARS</i>	Regulation 27C(2) of Cap. 141B as introduced through the making of the Prevention of the Spread of Infectious Diseases (Amendment) Regulation 2003 by the Chief Executive in Council on 15 April 2003**	

<u>Public health measure</u>	<u>Legal instrument</u>	<u>Annex</u>
Empowering health officers to <b>prohibit</b> persons believed or suspected to be suffering from SARS, have been exposed to the risk of infection of SARS by contact with a person suffering from that disease or a carrier of SARS <b>from leaving Hong Kong</b> (e.g. <b>barring close contacts</b> of confirmed SARS patients from leaving Hong Kong during their confinement period)	Regulation 27A of Cap. 141B as introduced through the making of the Prevention of the Spread of Infectious Diseases (Amendment) Regulation 2003 by the Chief Executive in Council on 15 April 2003**	
<b>Isolating</b> Block E of Amoy Gardens from 31 March 2003 to 9 April 2003	Isolation Order issued by D of H under Regulation 24 of Cap. 141B	G
<b>Removing</b> residents of Block E of Amoy Gardens to holiday camps for temporary accommodation	Removal Order issued by D of H under Regulations 10 and 12 of Cap. 141B	H
<b>Disinfection</b> of Block E of Amoy Gardens	Disinfection Order issued by a health office with the approval of D of H under Regulation 19 of Cap. 141B	I
Disposal of the <b>dead bodies</b> of deceased SARS patients	Regulation 17 of Cap. 141B	J

Health, Welfare and Food Bureau  
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