

Select Committee Question 27(14)

Q14 PMH adopted the following precautionary measures for visitors during various stages of SARS Outbreak

1. From 17 March 2003 – Surgical masks provided for all visitors to cohort area.
2. From 24 March 2003 – following HAHO guidelines of 24 March 2003 :
Non-SARS areas :
 - (a) visitors advised to avoid visiting the hospital if possible.
 - (b) visitors advised to bring their own masks; surgical masks provided by the hospital if required.
 - (c) visitors advised to wash hands on leaving the ward.SARS areas :
 - (a) visitors advised to avoid visiting the hospital if possible.
 - (b) visitors provided with surgical masks and gowns.
 - (c) visitors advised to wash hands on leaving the ward.
3. From 27 March 2003 – following HAHO guidelines of 27 March 2003 :
Visitors to SARS areas not allowed.
4. From 28 March 2003
To strengthen infection control measures, areas occupied by cohort of patients of atypical pneumonia were not open for visitors. For extremely exceptional cases, infection control measures were strictly complied with and cooperation of visitors was requested. The hospital had set up a Patient Service Counter (Tel : 2990 1587/2990 2021) to provide enquiry service on patients' conditions and other necessary assistance for patients' relatives.
5. From 29 March 2003
Since PMH turned into a SARS hospital with effective from 29 March 2003, no visiting policy was implemented in PMH from 9 pm on 28 March 2003. Precautionary infection control measures were strictly implemented. Alcohol hand rub was freely available in the hospital and visitors were encouraged to use them as frequent as possible.