

270043

**Q14 Precautionary measures adopted for visitors at PWH, AHNH and TPH at various stages of the SARS outbreak**

	NTEC	PWH	AHNH	TPH
11 March 2003		<b>Ward 8A</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Restricted visiting</li> <li>- PPE provided to all visitors (mask, gown)</li> <li>- visitors advised to avoid close contact with patients</li> </ul>		
12 March 2003		<b>Special areas requiring upgraded droplet precautions:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Restricted visiting</li> <li>- PPE provided to all visitors (mask, gown)</li> <li>- visitors advised to avoid close contact with patients</li> </ul>		
13 March 2003	<b>Promulgation of infection control guidelines and procedures for patient areas requiring upgraded droplet precautions, NTEC</b>			
24 March 2003	<b>Visitors to SARS patients</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- restricted</li> <li>- barrier apparels</li> <li>- avoid close contact with SARS patients</li> <li>- wash hands when leaving</li> </ul> <b>Visitors to non-SARS patients</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- restricted</li> <li>- surgical mask</li> <li>- wash hands when leaving</li> </ul>			
27 March 2003	<b>Following HA guidelines, no visiting to SARS patients unless under very exceptional circumstances, eg. Patients under terminal care.</b>			
	<b>Further delineation of clinical areas into ultra-high, high and moderate risk areas; PPE guidelines established for visitors according to levels of risk.</b>			
3 April 03	<b>Following HA guidelines, no visiting to acute hospitals and SARS Wards unless under very exceptional circumstances; restricted visiting in non-acute hospitals.</b>			

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**Q14 Precautionary measures adopted for visitors at TMH at Various Stages of the SARS Outbreak.**

1. From 15 March 2003
  - Surgical masks provided to visitors of cohort cases.
  - Gowns provided to visitors of cohort cases for close contact of patients.
2. From 17 March 2003
  - Visitors for cohort cases were restricted.
  - All visitors requested to put on surgical mask on visiting.
3. From 21 March 2003
  - Notices were posted up advising visitors to avoid staying in wards for too long.
4. From 24 March 2003
  - Visitors control implemented in all designated wards. Visitors restricted and were advised to put on barrier apparels and avoid close contact with the patient or touching objects in the patient's near vicinity. They were advised to wash their hands when leaving the ward.
5. From 26 March 2003
  - Visitors to SARS areas not allowed.
6. From 9pm on 3 April 2003 after "No-Visiting Policy" was Implemented
  - Visitors were **not allowed to visit** in-patient in all acute wards in TMH until further notice. For visitors insisted to visit the patient, advice and exceptional approval had to be sought from ward and Patient Relation Manager.
  - For visits with exceptional approval:
    - Visitors were also requested to **register with the security guard** at the ward entrance.
    - Visitors of arranged visits were required to carry out **strict infection control measures** and would be provided with **PPE** when entering the ward.
    - The visit was limited to a maximum of 15 minutes.
    - Visitors were required to **provide personal information**, such as name, address, contact phone number, and name of and relationship with the patient whom the visitor requested to visit, to ward staff to facilitate **tracing of contacts** of infected personnel by the Department of Health.
  - Notices were posted up to inform public on:
    - The "No-visiting Policy", except under very exceptional circumstances.

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- The need to carry out stringent infection control measures for all arranged visits.
- **Security Guards** were deployed outside the ward entrance on a 24-hour basis to prevent unauthorized access to wards and to minimize possible cross infection.