

15-MAY-2004 11:22 FROM CCE(NTE)/HCE PW/HCE BBH TO

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BY FAX AND BY POST

15 May 2004

Miss Flora TAI (Fax No. 2248 2011)
Clerk to Select Committee
Legislative Council, HKSAR
C/o 3/F, Citibank Tower
3 Garden Road
Hong Kong

Dear Miss Tai,

**Select Committee to inquire into the handling of
the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome outbreak by
the Government and the Hospital Authority**

I refer to your letter dated 11 May requesting additional information on the closure and re-opening of ward 8A of the Prince of Wales Hospital.

The answers to your questions are as follows:

- (a) The name(s) of the persons(s) who were involved in the decision of re-opening ward 8A;

Ward 8A was not re-opened to admission on 11 March 2003. The ward was re-opened for admission of patients with atypical pneumonia in the afternoon of 13 March 2003. The decision was made in the hospital outbreak meeting held at noon time on 13 March 2003. The meeting was chaired by me and attendees included Prof. Sydney Chung (CUHK), Prof. Peter Cameron (AED), Prof. J Sung and Prof. CS Cockram (Medicine), Prof. John Tam, Dr. Paul Chan, Dr. Donald Lyon (Microbiology), Dr. Shiu Tak Chi (Department of Health), Dr. N. Tung, Dr. CK Li, Ms. Lily Chung, Ms E. Mok (Hospital Management).

- (b) The name(s) of the persons(s) who proposed to re-open Ward 8A to admission on 11 March 2003.

See answer to (a)

- (c) The name(s) of the person(s) who made the decision to re-open Ward 8A to admission;

See answer to (a)

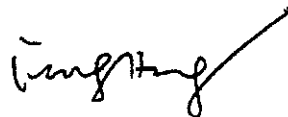
- (d) The name(s) of the person(s) who formally endorsed the decision to re-open Ward 8A to admission;

See answer to (a)

(e) The source of the above information including any documentary proof.

Notes of the Hospital Management Meetings for the Outbreak held on 13 March and 14 March 2003 which are attached for your reference. The 13 March notes are draft notes, but to the best of my recollection, these notes are correct.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Fung Hong', with a long, sweeping diagonal stroke extending upwards and to the right.

(Dr. FUNG Hong)
Hospital Chief Executive
Prince of Wales Hospital

Encl.

DRAFT

Notes of 1st Meeting regarding Incident at PWH Ward 8A held on 13th March 2003 at 11:00 a.m. in CR1, 2/F, Main Block, PWH

Present: Dr. FUNG Hong - Chairman
Prof Sydney Chung
Prof Peter A Cameron
Prof Joseph Sung
Prof. C.S. Cockram
Prof TAM Siu Lun, John
Dr. SY Tung
Dr. CK LI
Dr. Paul Chan
Dr. Lyon Donald, James
Dr. SHIU Tak chi
Ms. Lily Chung
Ms E Mok
Ms Winnie Cheng
Ms Fion Fung
Ms Zabrina Lee

Status update as at 11 a.m. on 13.3.03

PWH staff was admitted in PWH. Among them, 16 admitted staff was diagnosed with pneumonia symptom. Another three were admitted to other hospitals.

Ward 8A, 8B, and 8 D would be vacated to cater for admission of the case with relevant symptom.

Triaged Medical patients at A&E, PWH would be diverted to AHNH and NDH.

Elective surgical cases would be rescheduled.

Limited service at Cardiac Clinic would be provided.

Service of Medical day ward would be suspended temporary.

Press Release of the above announcement would be issued in due course.

So far, two no of staff were discharged.

Information Center at Conference 2, PWH

The following data would be updated timely at the Information Center:

- No of Admission
- Change of medical condition of the affected staff

Epidemic survey was being conducted.

Microbiologist Report

The above was updated in the meeting. More than 100 lab tests were performed—(1

Last updated on 13 March 2003

flu B, 2 meta pneumovirus, and 1 enterovirus.)

Manpower Crises

Because of the medical staff in Firm 2 were sick, there were only 3 firms out of four to take up the existing workload. Staff from other firms would take up workload in Ward 8A,B, D.

There would be two groups of staff: contaminated and clean. The clean staff would take up other cases.

Because of the shortage of manpower, some service at SOPD would be suspended temporary. Other back-up medical staff would be required. Prof. Joseph Sung would send recommendation to CCE for consideration after the meeting.

Patient Follow-up Clinic

Patient discharged would require follow-up. Also, those who had fever attended A&E would require x-ray assessment the second day. A Follow-up Clinic at A & E would be established to cater for the above purpose.

Delineation role of Staff Clinic and Special Clinic at A&E

All staff would be advised of the followings:

- Those with fever and specific symptom would go to A&E
- Those with non-specific symptom would go to Staff Clinic

Understanding that there was down staff in A&E, the above would be monitored. Situation would be reviewed in the evening.

Other Backup

16 beds of isolated ward at TPH might be handed over after renovation within one or two days. It would be available for admission if situation required

Staff Forum

It would be organized at 5 p.m. today.

Frequency of the meeting

There would be meeting twice per day for updating and monitoring the situation.

Next Meeting

It was scheduled at 7 p.m. on 13.3.03 (today).

Last updated on 13 March 2003