

Statement by Dr. Lui Siu Fai

On the specified area of study (contact tracing work of SARS patients) and response to the questions set out in appendix IV.

I would like to clarify my role at Prince of Wales Hospital (PWH) during the SARS outbreak, especially in the contact tracing work of SARS patients.

I assisted Dr. Fung Hong, HCE, PWH in operating the Disease Control Centre at PWH. Dr. Louis Chan was the Officer in-charge. The function of the centre was to collect the data of the infected patients, to produce day to day and cumulative statistics, to track the outcome of the patients and to serve as channel of communication internally with various clinical departments and externally with Hospital Authority Head Office (HAHO) and Department of Health (DH).

I took on the role to review the large amount of patient's data collected by the Disease Control Center. I performed "Line Listing and Descriptive Epidemiology" – that is to sort out the available patients' data in terms of "Who got infected, when and where". Hence my role was to establish the **contact history** of the cases. This work contributed to the "**Outbreak Investigation**".

Contact tracing refers to the process of identifying relevant contacts of a person with an infectious disease and ensuring that they are aware of the exposure. I was not involved with Contact Tracing of infected patients.

Replies to the set questions

1. Did you know about the contact tracing work conducted in respect of the healthcare workers (HCWs) in the Prince of Wales Hospital who had been infected with Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) during the outbreak at the hospital? If yes, how was the contact tracing work conducted and how would you assess its adequacy?

The demographic, clinical and close contact data of the infected healthcare workers were collected (via a questionnaires) by the visiting nursing staff of Department of Health, and later on (end of March) by the staff of the Disease Control Centre. DH has a copy of the questionnaires.

These demographic data were compiled together by PWH's Disease Control Centre into a database, under the supervision of Dr. Louis Chan. The compiled data were passed onto DH.

The workplace contacts of the healthcare worker (i.e. work colleagues) were aware of healthcare worker(s) within their work unit being infected. They were instructed (via departmental and hospital meeting) should they develop any symptoms to report to our Accident and Emergency Department for monitoring and surveillance. A follow up fever clinic was set up at A&E for this purpose.

The patients on the ward with infected HCWs were observed for symptoms.

The close contacts (family members) were followed up by Department of Health. There was an understanding this will be performed by Department of Health.

I am not in the position to assess its adequacy.

2. Did you know about the contact tracing work conducted in respect of the PWH index patient and the Amoy Gardens index patient ? If yes, how was the contact tracing work conducted and how would you assess its adequacy?

Contact tracing in respect of the PWH index case and the Amoy Gardens index case was performed by Department of Health.

I am not in the position to assess its adequacy.

3. Did you know about the contact tracing work conducted in respect of a five-year old girl (surname [REDACTED]) who had developed fever on 13 March 2003 and attended school for tow days before being admitted to PWH on 16 March 2003? If yes, how was the contact tracing work conducted and how would you assess its adequacy? Were you aware whether contact tracing had been conducted in respect of her contacts? Did you know whether any of her contacts at school had subsequently contracted SARS?

I recalled the paediatrician i/c of the case expressed concern about the contacts of the girl (as she was studying in a kinder-garten). I understood Dr. Louis Chan has communicated this and our concern to Department of Health.

The contact tracing was performed by Department of Health. I am not in the position to assess its adequacy.

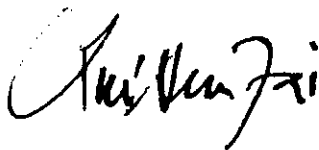
We are not aware any of her contacts at school had subsequently contracted SARS.

4. Did you know about the contact tracing work conducted in respect of the close contacts of the SARS patients in PWH? If yes, how was the contact tracing work conducted and how would you assess its adequacy:

The contact tracing work conducted in respect of the close contacts of the SARS patients in PWH was performed by Department of Health.

I understood DH collected the information of the contacts (exposed person) from each of the admitted patient and conducted telephone enquiry with each of the contacts (exposed person).

I am not in the position to assess its adequacy.



Dr. Lui Siu Fai

Dated 27 January 2004

NTE4109