

**Actions to be taken by the Health, Welfare and Food Bureau,
Department of Health, the Hospital Authority and other sectors
*at Level 2 Response – local transmission has occurred***

Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

- to co-ordinate inter-departmental response actions decided upon by the Steering Committee and monitor the implementation of these actions;
- to closely monitor the development of the cases;
- to closely monitor the investigative work undertaken by the Multi-disciplinary Response Team;
- to evaluate the Government's overall resource requirement and co-ordinate acquisition of resources where necessary;
- to re-assess Government's preparedness to cope with a deterioration of the situation and to take necessary actions to augment any inadequacy as directed by the Steering Committee;
- to formulate communication plans according to the strategy set by the Steering Committee to -
 - remind all sectors to adhere to preventive measures and/or give clear guidance on any additional preventive measures needed; and
 - keep the community closely informed of developments.

Department of Health

In addition to measures taken at Alert level and Level 1, the Department of Health will –

- in collaboration with the Police, activate the Police Headquarters facility that houses the MIIDSS computer system;
- mobilise a special investigation team to conduct in-depth epidemiological investigation on case clusters involving local transmission, with a view to rapidly identify hidden community sources and their mode of transmission;
- provide clear guidance to the community and various sectors on extra preventive measures to be taken; and
- liaise closely with the WHO and other overseas health authorities and remain alert about possible travel advisories against Hong Kong.

Hospital Authority

The Hospital Authority Central Command Committee for SARS will have already been in operation. In addition to measures taken at Alert level and Level 1, the Hospital Authority will –

- mobilise and enhance cluster-based support in specific clinical areas, e.g. respiratory care, intensive care and infectious disease management to support the hospitals receiving SARS patients where appropriate. Where necessary, the Hospital Authority Head Office will arrange cross cluster mobilisation;
- if necessary, deploy staff to augment the clinical areas in need in accordance with a pre-agreed deployment plan, taking into consideration the required expertise and experience in the required service;
- analyse epidemiological data and strengthen infection control measures. If there is a need to consider stopping admissions and/or discharges from a hospital or closing any Accident and Emergency Department, the decision will be made by the Chief Executive of the Hospital Authority;
- assess the need for additional isolation facilities and recommend to the Government an implementation plan for such an occurrence; and
- establish collaboration with private hospitals on mutual support, including management of patients under observation who are suspected to have contracted SARS.

Home Affairs Department

- designate the respective District Officer to liaise with the local community where a clustering of cases in a specific location warrants exceptional control measures such as evacuation or isolation.

Other Government Departments

- implement outbreak control measures, e.g. closure of public facilities, suspension of classes territory-wide, as directed by the Steering Committee.

Communication with the public

- continue daily updates of the situation to the public and media and other means of communication employed.

Communication with the international community

- continue with the communication with consular corps and foreign countries.

