

**Actions to be taken by the Health, Welfare and Food Bureau,  
Department of Health, the Hospital Authority and other sectors  
at Level 1 Response – one or more local laboratory-confirmed SARS cases**

***Health, Welfare and Food Bureau***

- to co-ordinate inter-departmental response actions decided upon by the Steering Committee and monitor implementation of these actions;
- to closely monitor the development of the case(s);
- to closely monitor the investigative work undertaken by the Multi-disciplinary Response Team;
- 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; and
- 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 local and international community closely informed of developments.

***Department of Health***

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

- continue home confinement of family contacts of SARS cases;
- launch SARS building list on SARS website;
- lead the Multi-disciplinary Response Team to investigate and disinfect buildings inhabited by SARS cases within 24 hours;
- set up telephone hotlines manned by professional staff to address public enquiries;
- step up health advice in collaboration with the Information Services Department;
- step up inspection to elderly homes to ensure adequate infection control measures;
- remind private hospitals and private practitioners to notify the Department of Health promptly of any suspected SARS case and of the way to handle a suspected SARS case before the case is assessed by the Department of Health or

- the Hospital Authority; and
- require private hospitals to audit the hospital infection control measures.

### ***Hospital Authority***

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

- upgrade infection control measure in all Hospital Authority to the level of ‘SARS’, including restriction on visiting and use of enhanced personal protective gear;
- mobilise hospitals in accordance with a staged response plan to admit confirmed and suspected patients. Details of the plan are at ***Appendix 1***;
- implement the service re-organisation plan to dovetail with the plan on patient mobilisation to ensure essential services will not be affected;
- activate the Hospital Authority Business Support Sub-command Centre to co-ordinate the procurement and distribution of supplies that are in high demand as well as the collection of feedbacks;
- monitor and assess continuously the trend of outbreak and possible implications to service and adjust the service reorganisation plan accordingly; and
- discuss with private hospitals and practitioners the provision of medical services and sharing of workload where necessary.

### ***Schools***

*should a student or a staff member be suspected or confirmed to have contracted SARS*

- suspend classes for 10 days;
- cleanse and disinfect school premises according to Department of Health instructions.

*should a suspected or confirmed SARS patient be a household contact of a student or staff member*

- require the student or staff member to stay away from school for home confinement for 10 days.

### ***Residential care homes for the elders and people with disabilities***

*should a resident or staff be suspected or confirmed to have contracted SARS*

- the residents will be subject to in-situ confinement for 10 days; and
- cleanse and disinfect the home premises according to the Department of Health instructions.

***Other Government facilities***

*should a SARS patient be a staff member*

- the facility or premises will be cleansed and disinfected and/or temporarily closed.

***Communication with the public and the media***

- daily updates of the situation will be provided to the public and the media; and
- other means of communication, e.g. special bulletins on the Government homepage, will be used to keep the community informed as directed by the Steering Committee.

***Communication with the international community***

- provide frequent updates of the situation to consular corps;
- Economic and Trade Offices overseas will provide updates on Hong Kong's situation to foreign countries.