

# Prevention and Control of Communicable Diseases at the Airport – Hong Kong Experience

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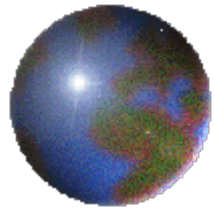


Hong Kong is one of two special administrative regions of the People's Republic of China. Coastal city enclosed by the Pearl River Delta, with a land mass of 1,104 km<sup>2</sup> home to a population of 7 million people



# Outline

- ✦ Role of Port Health Office in Hong Kong
- ✦ Public Health Emergency Preparedness at the Airport
- ✦ Way Forward for Port Health



# Port Health Office in Hong Kong

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# Role of Port Health Office

Implement the **International Health Regulations** and enforce the (Hong Kong) **Prevention and Control of Disease Ordinance** at the **Seaports, Hong Kong International Airport and Ground Crossings** for **preventing spread** of infectious diseases

A faint, light-brown world map is visible in the background of the top section of the slide.

# Disease Prevention and Control at Points of Entry

- ✦ Detection and Management of Ill Travellers
- ✦ Hazard and Environmental Monitoring and Control
- ✦ Travel Health

# Hong Kong International Airport (2011)

- ✦ **More than 100 airlines operate flights to over 170 destinations worldwide, including some 45 cities in Mainland China**
- ✦ **About 65,000 people work in HKIA (the Airport Community)**
  
- ✦ **About 950 daily flights**
- ✦ **Passenger throughput: 53.9 million**
- ✦ **Cargo throughput : 3.9 million tonnes**

# Hong Kong International Airport – multi modal connection to China

- ✦ **Every day, cross boundary coaches carry passengers on about 550 round trips linking Hong Kong International Airport with 115 cities and towns in Pearl River Delta Region in China including Macau**
- ✦ **The SkyPier cross-boundary ferry service connects passengers between the Pearl River Delta Region in China and international destinations via Hong Kong International Airport without going through immigration and Customs formalities in Hong Kong**



# Detection & Management of Ill Travellers - Detection

- ✦ **Notification by Aircraft Operators**
  - ✦ Awareness of crew members
  - ✦ Passenger reporting
  - ✦ Facilitated by Airport Control
  
- ✦ **Voluntary reporting**
  
- ✦ **Health screening when required**
  - ✦ Temperature Screening (in place for prevention of avian influenza in human)
  - ✦ Health Declaration

# Detection & Management of Ill Travellers - Management

## ✦ Health Assessment

- ✦ Classified as suspected case if exposure history (including travel history) and clinical features suggestive of a significant infectious disease
- ✦ Risk-based management guidelines
- ✦ Set up relevant facilities at the Airport (health post & isolation facility)

## ✦ Referral and Transport

- ✦ Referral made to the designated infectious disease hospital
- ✦ Mechanism in place for transporting the suspected case

## ✦ Diagnosis and Management

- ✦ Clinical management provided at infectious disease hospital;
- ✦ Public health control measures may be implemented as appropriate
- ✦ Integrated mechanism for cases detected in the community



# Hazard and Environmental Monitoring and Control

- ✿ Regular monitoring
  - ✿ Inspection of cross-boundary conveyances
  - ✿ Environmental inspection
  - ✿ Food and water safety
  - ✿ Vector surveillance and control
- ✿ Enforcement action when irregularities identified

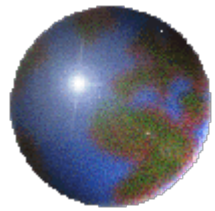
# Travel Health

## ✦ At the Airport:

- ✦ Information sheet/posters
- ✦ On board broadcasting
- ✦ Travel Health Exhibition

## ✦ Pre-travel

- ✦ Global Disease Monitoring (Media reports, official reports) being shared between China and Macau MoH on a daily basis
- ✦ Letters to Hong Kong Travel Industry Council
- ✦ Travel Health Service and website  
[www.travelhealth.gov.hk](http://www.travelhealth.gov.hk)



**Emergency preparedness  
- get the airport to work !**

# Getting started:

## Identifying the entry point:

- ✦ International: WHO (IHR, Pandemic Plan), ICAO, IATA
- ✦ Local: threat of SARS, AI
  - ❑ The Government's 3-tier response system for handling major infectious disease outbreaks
  - ❑ Alert Response Level
  - ❑ Serious Response Level
  - ❑ Emergency Response Level



# Role of Port Health

## 1. Integrating Airport and Public Health Response Plan

### HKIA Emergency Procedures Manual (for the Airport Community) Part 13 Public Health Emergencies

- ❖ Set out broad principles, responsibilities and procedures on handling of flights from port(s) where there is an outbreak of serious infectious disease
- ❖ Port Health Office has developed a procedure specific to AI – “Procedures of handling possible AI case on board arriving flight”

**Airport’s own Infectious Diseases Preparedness and Response Plans listed response measures with contact points and responsibilities**



# Role of Port Health

## 2. Providing technical guidance

- ✦ **Based on the recommendations of ICAO guidelines, Port Health Office issued Avian Influenza Prevention Guidelines to:**
  - ✦ **Aircraft Operators**
  - ✦ **Airline Cleaning Service**
  - ✦ **Air Cargo Agents**
  - ✦ **Airline Baggage Agents**
- ✦ **Providing professional inputs in the development of airport response plans**
- ✦ **Providing professional support in the implementation of airport response plans**
- ✦ **Facilitate the development of business continuity plans in Airport Community**

# Role of Port Health

## 3. Providing training to Airport Community

### ✦ Conduct

- ✦ Briefings

- ✦ Update on AI

- ✦ Use of personal protective equipment

### ✦ Facilitated by the Airport Authority



# Role of Port Health

## 4. Translating into action

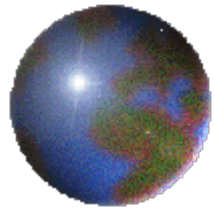
### Field Exercise

- ✦ Exercise “West Wind”
  - ❏ 21 Dec 2005
- ✦ Exercise “Laurentian Spring”
  - ❏ 17 Mar 2006
- ✦ Exercise “Tai Shan”
  - ❏ 7 Mar 2008

### Desktop Exercise

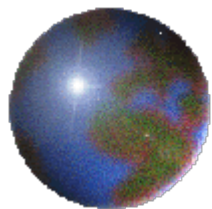
- ✦ Exercise “Laramide”
  - ❏ 28 March 2007
- ✦ Exercise “Heng Shan”
  - ❏ 31 March 2009
- ✦ Exercise “Hua Shan”
  - ❏ Nov 2012



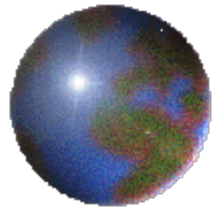


# Way Forward for Port Health Office

# Way Forward



- ✦ Strengthen capacity on disease detection
- ✦ Streamline health screening
- ✦ Strengthen monitoring and response mechanisms on hazard and environmental monitoring
- ✦ Explore more effective models on structure, staffing and practice
  
- ✦ Partnership especially to China and Macau
  - ✦ Annual Meeting with agenda setting on issue of public health significance with 5 cities (Hong Kong, Macau, Zhuhai, Xiamen and Shenzhen)
  - ✦ Joint Action & Contingency Plans on Port Health Measures



**Thank you very much**