

MARINE DEPARTMENT NOTICE NO. 39 OF 2003

Notice to Owners, Agents, Operators, Masters and Persons-in-charge of Ships and Locally Licensed Vessels - Atypical Pneumonia

Background

An outbreak of Atypical Pneumonia has occurred in Hong Kong affecting mainly health care workers and close contacts of patients. The available evidence suggests the mode of transmission is most consistent with droplet spread through respiratory secretions. The World Health Organisation and the Hong Kong Department of Health advise that there is no evidence to date that the disease spreads through casual contacts.

Advice from the Department of Health

2. According to the Department of Health, the disease presents with abrupt onset of high fever, cough, muscle aches, runny nose and generalized malaise. The following precautionary measures are recommended :

- (a) build up good body immunity by having a balanced diet, regular exercise and adequate rest, reducing stress and avoiding smoking;
- (b) maintain good personal hygiene and wash hands after sneezing, coughing or cleaning the nose;
- (c) maintain good ventilation;
- (d) avoiding visiting crowded places with poor ventilation; and
- (e) consult doctors immediately if falling sick.

Information on the disease

3. Those who would like to obtain more information on the disease may visit the website of the Department of Health at www.info.gov.hk/dh or make enquiries with its hotline on 187 2222.

(S Y TSUI)
Director of Marine

Marine Department
Government of the HKSAR
Date : 25 March 2003
Action File : L/M No. 54/2003 in HQ/GR 103/5/5