

**Health, Welfare & Food Bureau**  
**SARS Bulletin**  
**(27 May 2003)**

We are saddened by the death of Ms Lau Kam-yung, a health care assistant of the United Christian Hospital, due to Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) in the morning of 27 May. We would like to express our heartfelt appreciation of Ms Lau's dedication and selfless commitment to patient service. We join the entire community to convey our deepest sympathy to Ms Lau's family.

We are committed to providing any necessary assistance Ms Lau's family may need. A sum will be allocated from the Hospital Authority Charitable Foundation to help the family as contingency, in addition to the allowances that the family will receive. If her family wishes, the Government will arrange for Ms Lau's body to be buried in the Gallant Garden.

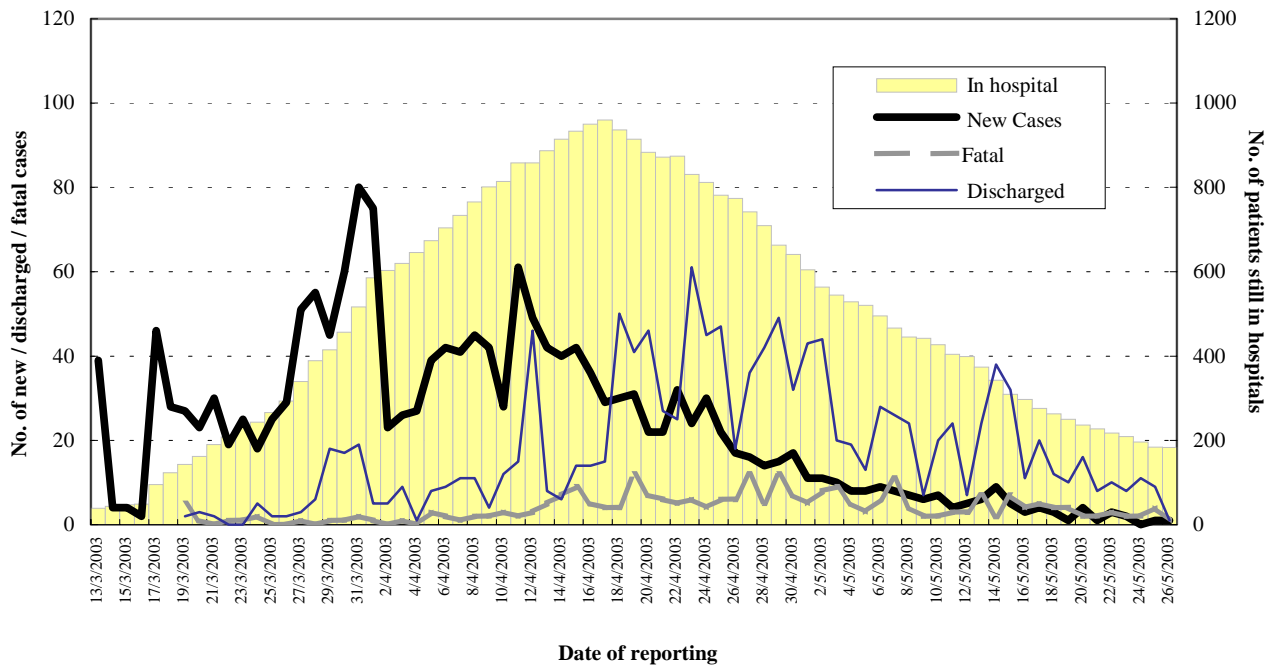
**Summary of Cases**

On 26 May, 1 more patient with SARS has recovered from the disease and been discharged from hospitals, hence increasing the total number of recovered patients to 1,276 (i.e., 73.9% of all 1,726 SARS cases). Out of the 1,726 cases, 381 involved health care workers or medical students. There are currently 183 SARS patients remaining in hospitals, in which 74 patients are undergoing convalescence before discharge and 37 patients are receiving treatment in the intensive care units. There are also 11 suspected cases under treatment, and the cumulative total of fatal cases was 267.

2. On 26 May, only 1 more patient was confirmed to have SARS. Since 16 May, the daily number of newly confirmed SARS cases has fallen below 5 for the 11<sup>th</sup> consecutive day, and the average number of newly confirmed cases in the past week was only 2 per day. *Figure 1* shows the daily number of newly confirmed cases, discharged cases and fatal cases according to the date of reporting, and the

number of patients still in hospital on the corresponding date.

Figure 1



3. *Figure 2* is the epidemic curve of 26 May showing the dates of onset of 1,697 patients (the dates of onset of the remaining 29 cases are to be confirmed). The distribution of cases by age group and gender is shown in *Table 1*.

Figure 2

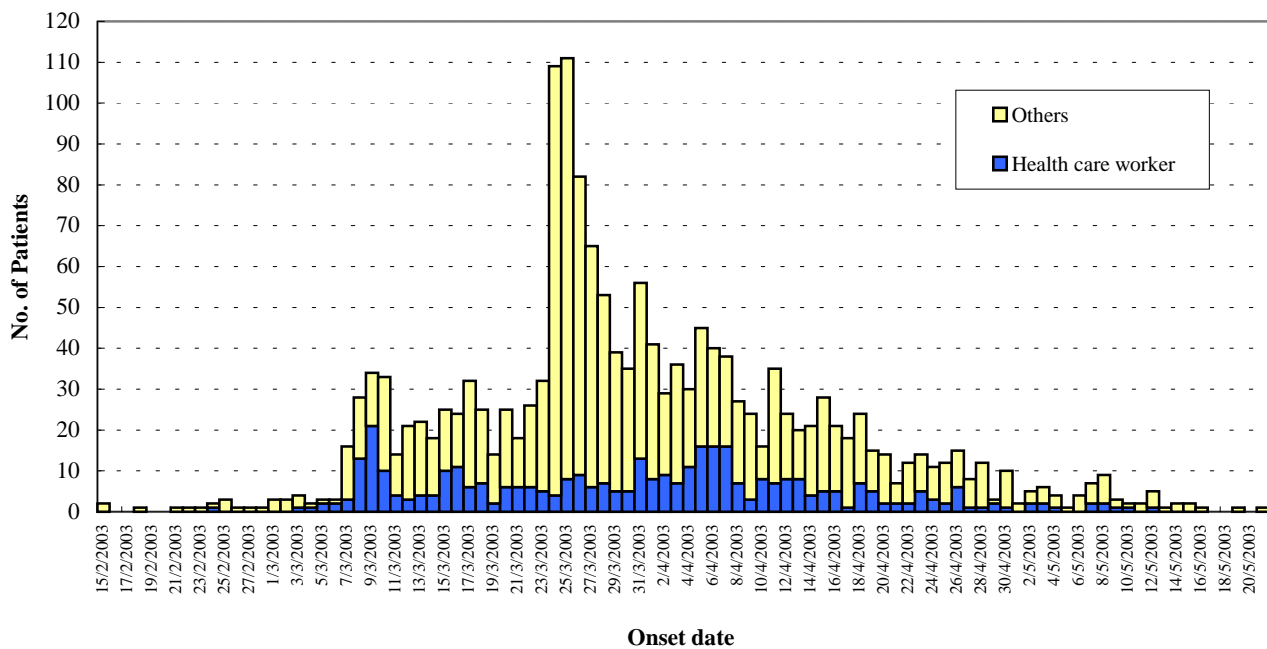


Table 1

<b>Age group</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>
0-14	2%	2%
15-24	4%	6%
25-34	9%	15%
35-44	9%	12%
45-54	6%	9%
55-64	4%	3%
65-74	4%	4%
75 or above	6%	4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>45%</b>	<b>55%</b>

Note: Percentage may not add up to total due to rounding.

4. Information on the occupation of 1,576 patients (91.3% of all 1,726 SARS cases) has been collected and analysed. 955 of them (60.6%) belong to the working population, in which “Health Care Workers” is the largest single occupational group, representing 23.9% of all these 1,576 cases. The breakdown of the cases by the patient’s occupation is shown in *Table 2*.

Table 2

<b>Working Group</b>	<b>Percentage</b>	<b>Non-working Group</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Health Care Workers	23.9%	Retired	11.3%
Food Handlers	1.8%	Housewives	10.0%
Domestic Helpers	1.8%	Students	8.4%
School Staff	1.5%	Pre-school Children	0.6%
Disciplinary Force	0.6%	Visitors/Tourists	0.3%
Others (e.g. drivers, clerical and administrative personnel)	31.2%	Others (e.g. unemployed)	8.8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>60.6%</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>39.4%</b>

Note: Percentage may not add up to total due to rounding.

Update on clusters of cases

5. Here is the latest situation of some known clusters: -
- For Koway Court in Eastern District, there has been no SARS case since the last case was reported on 17 April.
  - For the cluster in Hing Tung House, Tung Tau Estate in Wong Tai Sin District, there has been no confirmed or suspected case since the last case was reported on 20 April.

- In Kwun Tong District, the last confirmed case reported in Amoy Gardens and Ngau Tau Kok Lower Estate was 24 April and 20 May respectively.
- The last confirmed case of Wing Shui House, Lek Yuen Estate in Sha Tin District was reported on 22 May. As at 26 May, there was one suspected case in the Estate, who was a family member of a confirmed SARS patient.

## **Ongoing Development**

### *Health Checks at Border Points*

6. Since 29 March, medical posts have been set up at the airport, ports and border points to watch for travellers displaying symptoms of SARS, and all incoming passengers are required to complete a health declaration. Temperature checks for all arriving, departing and transit passengers at the Hong Kong International Airport have also been implemented since mid-April.

7. As regards other control points, arriving passengers via ports and land boundary crossings are subject to temperature screening in addition to health declaration with effect from 26 April. Since mid-May, departing passengers from the Hong Kong Macao Ferry Terminal and the China Ferry Terminal, and all passengers departing for the Mainland by through trains are required to undergo temperature checks before leaving Hong Kong. In addition, all close contacts of confirmed SARS patients are barred from leaving Hong Kong during their home confinement period.

8. As at 26 May, 2 passengers had been confirmed to have SARS since the implementation of all the above health checking measures.

### *Home Confinement*

9. All household contacts of confirmed or suspected SARS patients are

required to undergo home confinement for monitoring and treatment up to a maximum of 10 days. As at 26 May, a total of 1,227 persons (from 480 households) had been affected by this requirement, of whom only 32 persons (from 7 households) were still under home confinement. So far, 33 of them had been confirmed to have SARS.

## **Health Advice/Further Information**

### *Smoking & SARS*

10. Smoking damages the cardiovascular system. If smokers contract SARS, the chance of recovery will be lowered. To prevent oneself from contracting the disease, members of the public should quit smoking immediately because smoking weakens body immunity and increases the chance of infection.

11. For more information, the public may call the Smoking Cessation Hotline of the Department of Health (DH) at 2961 8883 or browse the website of the DH's Tobacco Control Office: <http://www.tobaccocontrol.gov.hk>.

### *Further Information*

12. To empower the public in fighting against the SARS, DH has issued advices and guidelines on prevention of the disease for various sectors. Publicity programmes have been made to educate the public on all aspects of the disease, including the symptoms, the mode of transmission, the importance of seeking early treatment and various preventive measures namely personal and environmental hygiene. Health education information is available on the 24-hour pre-recorded hotlines (2833 0111) and has been uploaded onto DH's homepage (<http://www.info.gov.hk/dh>). A hotline (187 2222) has also been provided for public enquiries.