

Health, Welfare & Food Bureau
SARS Bulletin
(2 June 2003)

We are saddened by the death of Ms Wong Kang-tai and Dr Cheng Ha-yan due to Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) on 31 May and 1 June respectively. Ms Wong was a ward attendant of Prince of Wales Hospital, while Dr Cheng was a medical officer of Tai Po Hospital.

We would like to express our heartfelt appreciation of the dedication and selfless commitment to patient service by Ms Wong and Dr Cheng. We join the entire community to convey our deepest sympathy to their families.

We are committed to providing any necessary assistance the families of Ms Wong and Dr Cheng may need. If their families wish, the Government will arrange for Ms Wong and Dr Cheng to be buried in the Gallant Garden.

Summary of Cases

On 1 June, 8 more patients with SARS had recovered from the disease and been discharged from hospitals, hence increasing the total number of recovered patients to 1,318 (i.e., 76% of all 1,742 SARS cases). There were 143 SARS patients remaining in hospitals, in which 60 patients were undergoing convalescence before discharge and 27 patients were receiving treatment in the intensive care units. There were also 9 suspected cases under treatment, and the cumulative total of fatal cases was 281.

2. On 1 June, 3 more patients were confirmed to have SARS, thus increasing the total number of SARS cases in Hong Kong to 1,742. Since 16 May, the daily number of newly confirmed SARS cases has fallen below 5 for the 17th consecutive day, and the average number of newly confirmed cases in the past week was 2 per day.

3. Out of the 1,742 confirmed cases, 384 involved health care workers or medical students. A breakdown of their status (as at 2359 hrs of 1 June) is as follows:

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Patient Status	Number of cases	As a % of total cases
Recovered and discharged	350	91%
Under treatment in hospital	26 ⁽¹⁾	7%
Deceased	8 ⁽²⁾	2%
Total	384	100%

4. Figure 1 (in page 3) is the epidemic curve of 1 June showing the onset dates of 1,716 confirmed SARS patients (the dates of onset of the remaining 26 cases are to be confirmed). Among them, 22% are health care workers, including doctors (4%), nurses (12%) and other health care workers (6%). 91% of the sick health care workers were staff of the public sector (please refer to Table 1 below). Most sick health care workers (98%) had onset dates before 5 May (i.e. 4 weeks ago), and the remaining 2% had onset dates between 5 to 18 May, and none in the past 2 weeks (i.e., on or after 19 May). The onset dates of sick health care workers in the public sector spanned from February to May, while 88% of the cases in the private health care sector had onset dates in March.

Table 1

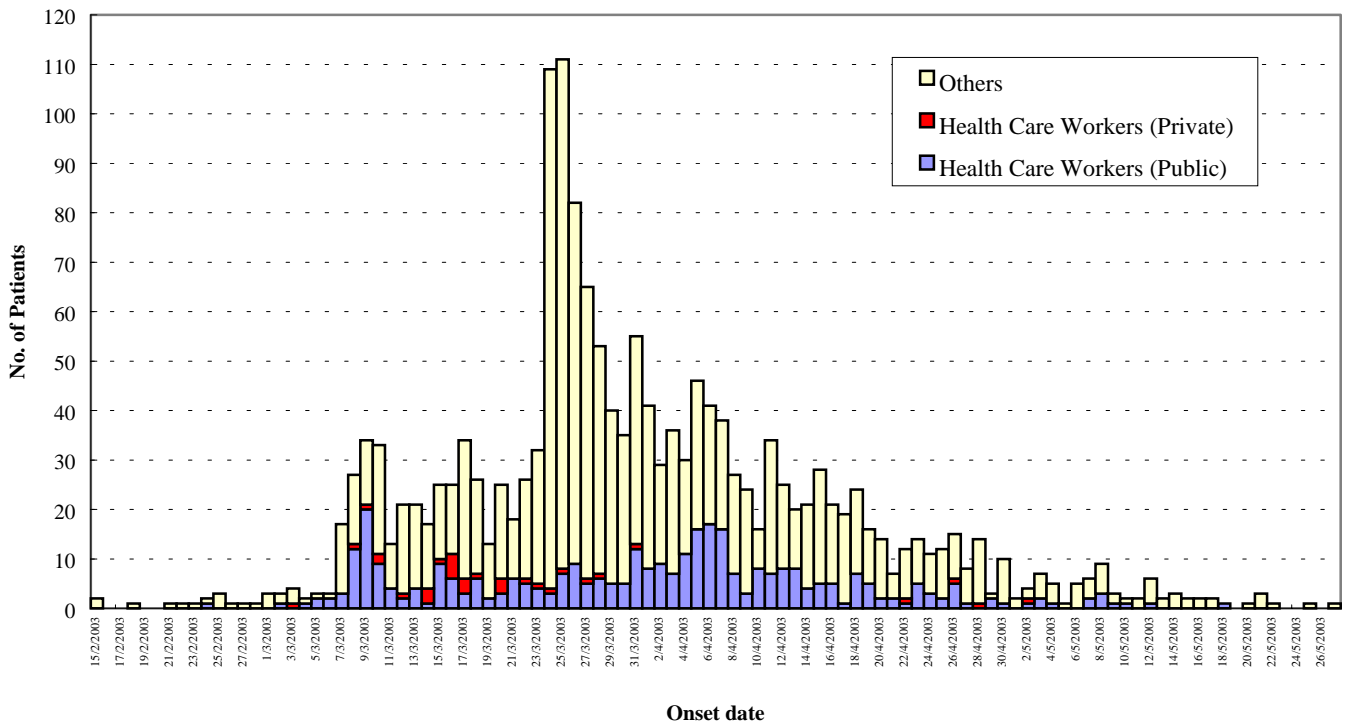
	Public Sector	Private Sector
Doctor	15%	2%
Nurse	49%	5%
Other health care workers	27%	1%
Total	91%	9%

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

¹ 3 of these patients are receiving treatment in Intensive Care Units.

² Including 6 staff of public hospitals and 2 private medical practitioners.

Figure 1



5. The distribution of sick health care workers by age group and gender is shown in Table 2 below:

Table 2

Age group	Male	Female
15-24	2%	8%
25-34	13%	32%
35-44	6%	20%
45-54	4%	11%
55-64	2%	2%
Total	27%	73%

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

travellers are required to complete a health declaration. To enhance the preventive measures in containing the spread of SARS, temperature checks for all arriving, departing and transit passengers at the Hong Kong International Airport have also been implemented since mid-April. Since 14 April, all close contacts of SARS patients are also barred from leaving Hong Kong during the home confinement period.

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 people departing for the Mainland by through trains from the Hung Hom Station are required to undergo temperature checks before leaving Hong Kong.

8. As at 1 June, 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 1 June, 12 persons (from 7 households) were under this home confinement requirement. So far, a total of 1,243 persons (from 488 households) had been affected by this requirement, of whom 33 of them were later confirmed to have SARS.

Further Information

10. 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 a designated webpage of DH

(<http://www.info.gov.hk/info/sars/eindex.htm>). A hotline (187 2222) has also been provided for public enquiries.

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Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region