

Health, Welfare & Food Bureau

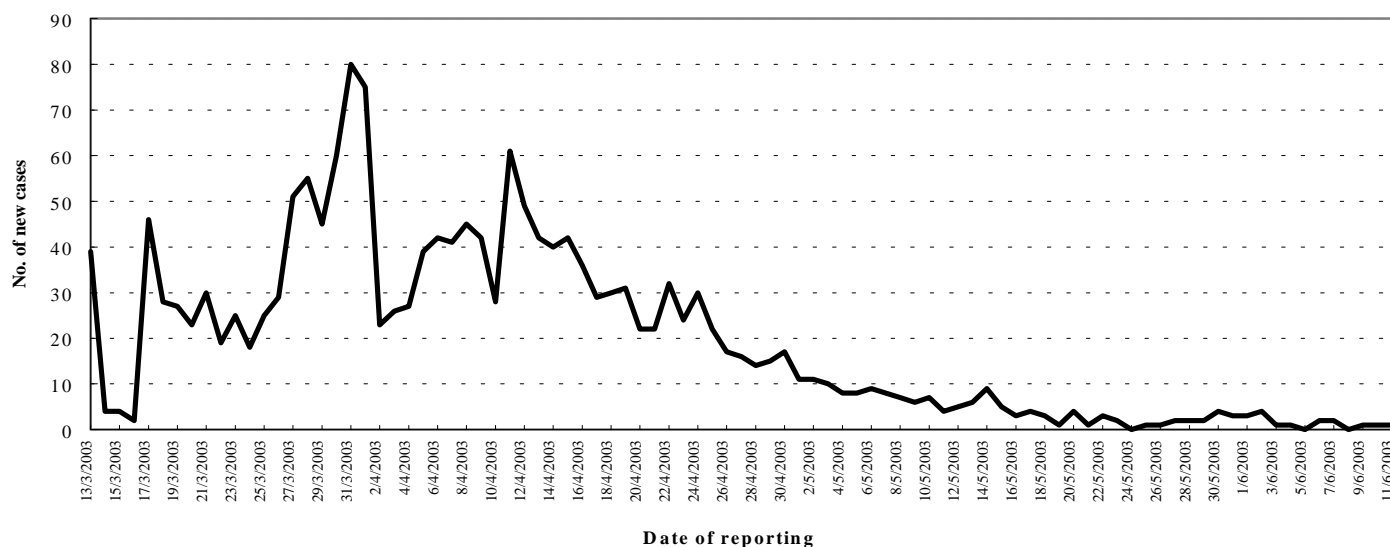
SARS Bulletin

(12 June 2003)

Summary of Cases

On 11 June, one more patient was confirmed to have Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), and the total number of SARS cases in Hong Kong reached 1,755 (including 386 health care workers or medical students). Since mid-April, the daily number of newly confirmed cases has decreased substantially (*Figure 1*), and zero new case was reported on three days (i.e. 24 May, 5 June and 8 June). Since 16 May, the daily number of newly confirmed SARS cases has fallen below 5 for the 27th consecutive day, with an average of 2 newly confirmed cases per day. Nevertheless, we continue to advise the public to continue good hygienic practice and guard against lapses in personal and environmental hygiene.

Figure 1



2. On 11 June, 6 more patients with SARS had recovered from the disease and been discharged from hospitals, hence increasing the total number of recovered patients to 1,374. There were 90 SARS patients remaining in hospitals, in which 30 patients were undergoing convalescence before discharge and 17 patients were receiving treatment in the intensive care units. There were no suspected cases, and the cumulative total of fatal cases was 291.

3. Figure 2 shows the cumulative number of SARS cases, discharged cases and fatal cases, and Figure 3 shows the breakdown of the status of cases remaining in hospitals on the respective date of reporting. As at 11 June, 78% of all 1,755 SARS cases had recovered and been discharged from hospital, 5% remained in hospital and 17% had deceased. The peak number of newly confirmed SARS cases, hospitalized cases and cases in intensive care units were 80, 960 and 127 respectively, which were reported on 31 March, 17 April and 15 April respectively.

Figure 2

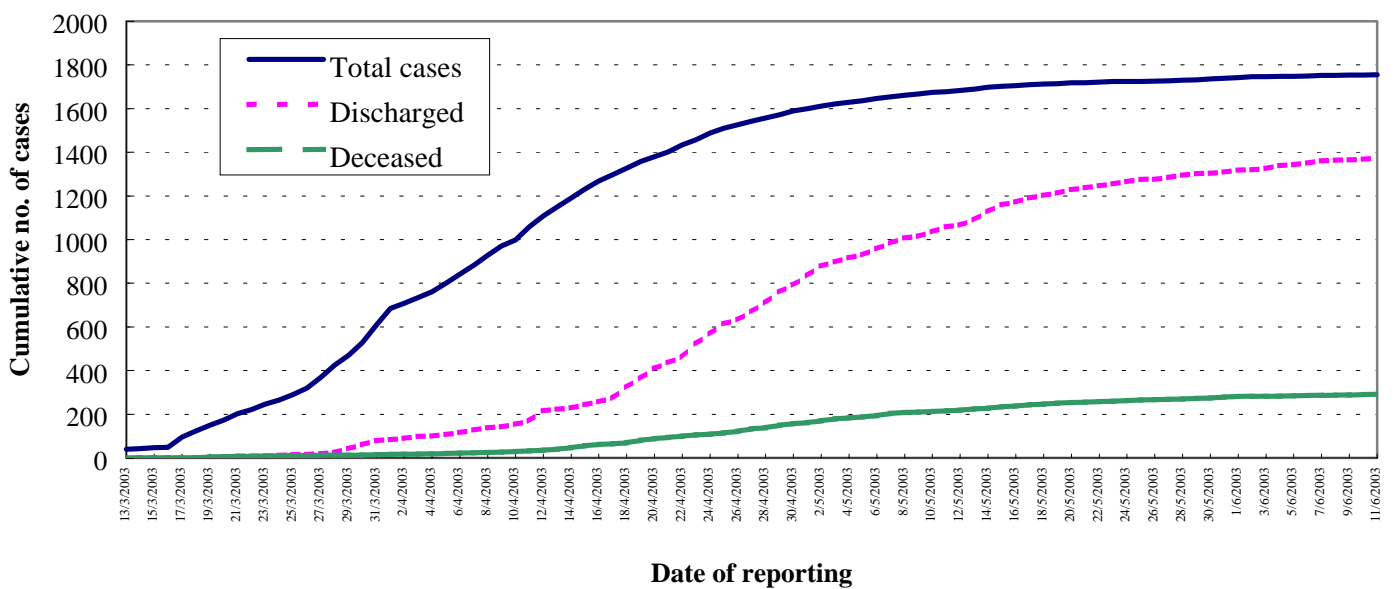
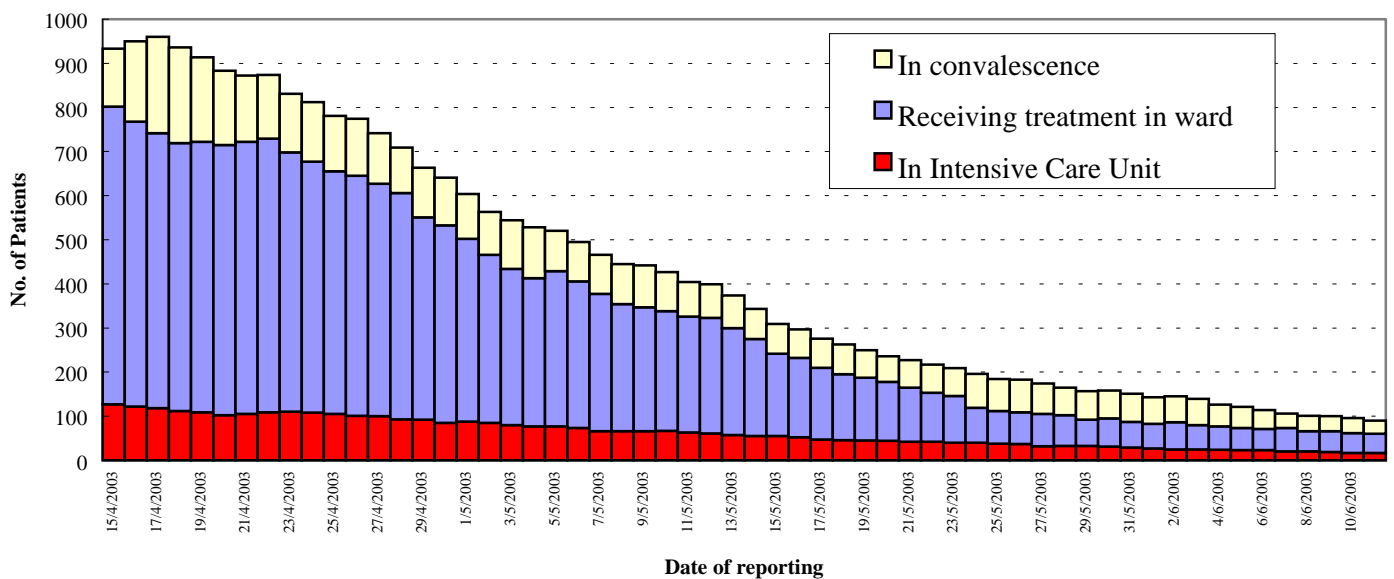


Figure 3



Ongoing Development

Health Checks at Border Points

4. 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.

5. 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.

6. As at 11 June, 2 passengers had been confirmed to have SARS since the implementation of all the above health checking measures.

Home Confinement

7. 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 11 June, 4 persons (from 2 households) were under this home confinement requirement. So far, a total of 1,262 persons (from 493 households) had been affected by this requirement, of whom 34 of them were later confirmed to have SARS.

Further Information

8. To empower the public in fighting against the SARS, DH has issued advice 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