

Guidelines on Prevention of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS)

for Participants of Public Functions

When attending a public function, the Department of Health advises the public to pay attention to the following points to protect themselves against SARS:

Before the function

- If you don't feel well, especially when you have a fever and/or respiratory symptoms such as coughing, sneezing, do not attend the function. Consult a doctor promptly.
- Always keep your hands clean. Wash hands after touching public objects or facilities.
- Bring a handkerchief or a packet of tissues with you.

During the function:

- Maintain good personal hygiene. Cover your nose and mouth when sneezing or coughing, and wash your hands immediately afterwards to avoid spreading germs via respiratory droplets.
- Wash hands before touching your eyes, mouth or nose, before meals and after going to the toilet.
- Wash hands with liquid soap, and then dry with a disposable towel or a hand drier.
- If hand washing facilities are not available, rub hands with a 65-95% alcohol solution to disinfect hands.
- Do not spit or litter. Use a tissue to hold your spit and discard it into a bin with a lid. Always put rubbish in a bin. Spitting or littering in public is an offence and the offender is liable to a fixed penalty of HK\$1,500.
- Do not smoke.

After the function:

- Keep your hands clean.
- Take a shower or bath and wash hair when you return home to remove any dirt and germs that you might have come across.

Note: When SARS is reported locally, participants should wear a mask in crowded or poorly ventilated areas in addition to observe the above measures.

Wish you a joyful and fantastic gathering!

For more information on health, please call the Department of Health's 24-hour pre-recorded health education hotline: 2833 0111, Department of Health's SARS hotline at 187 2222 during office hours, or visit the Department of Health's website: <http://www.dh.gov.hk>

