

PRESS RELEASE 新聞稿

Hospital Authority Building, 147B, Argyle Street, Kowloon, Hong Kong

Monday, 24th March 2003

Attention News Editors:

Hospital Authority (HA) Chairman Dr Leong Che-hung remarked as follows when he met the reporters at HA Building today (24th March):

HA Chief Executive Dr William Ho Shiu-wei felt unwell at 9:00pm last evening (23rd March) when he was on his way to a private function on Hong Kong Island. He immediately went to Queen Mary Hospital for a check-up and was diagnosed to have fever and pneumonia symptoms. He was admitted around midnight for observation and treatment. His condition is stable. Director (Professional Services & Public Affairs) Dr Ko Wing-man will co-ordinate the responsibilities and duties of the Chief Executive for the time being.

In order to deploy and reserve manpower and facilities to meet urgent patient demands, all public hospitals will reduce non-urgent hospital admission and outpatient services. The HA Chairman appealed to the public for accommodating the possible inconvenience caused by service arrangement.

Infection control measures in all public hospitals will be further enhanced to cover non-clinical areas including offices and canteens. Surgical masks will be worn by all staff. Dr Leong also suggested members of the public avoid visiting public hospitals unless necessary. Hospitals may provide visitors with surgical masks if required. Dr Leong reiterated that the disease was considered to be spreaded via droplets, precautions can be taken by wearing a surgical mask, washing hands frequently and maintaining personal hygiene.

In conclusion, Dr Leong expressed his heartfelt appreciation to members of the public, including those who have donated and supported the work of hospital frontline staff.

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