



Food Hygiene Handling of Contaminated Articles
 Environmental Hygiene Personal Hygiene Cough Etiquette
 Wearing Surgical Mask Proper Handwashing Alcohol-based Handrub

Guidelines on

Prevention of Communicable Diseases in Residential Care Homes for the Elderly

Safe Food Preparation Personal Protective Equipment
 Vaccination Open Windows 1 in 49 Diluted Household Bleach
 Maintain Indoor Ventilation 1 in 99 Diluted Household Bleach
 Infection Control



Introduction

Effective prevention of communicable diseases in residential care homes for the elderly (RCHEs) will not only safeguard the health of the residents and the staff by minimizing the harm caused by the diseases, but will also reduce the chance of hospitalization of the residents and thus help to save community resources. It is therefore incumbent on every staff and resident to learn how to prevent communicable diseases. This guideline is intended to provide practical information on prevention measures of communicable diseases for those who work in RCHEs. Every employee of RCHEs has the responsibility to understand the guideline and to take care of the elderly according to what has been laid down therein. The guideline is prepared according to the previous version published in 2003. It is divided into seven sections. While individual staff may refer to the relevant sections as necessary, it is important for infection control officers (ICOs) to familiarize themselves with all the content so as to assist the responsible officers of the RCHEs in preventing the spread of communicable diseases within the institution. However, this set of guideline is not meant to be exhaustive. In case of doubt or when further information on specific communicable disease is needed, advice can be sought from the Visiting Health Teams (VHTs) of the Elderly Health Service of the Department of Health in different districts (please refer to section 6.4.2 for details). Lastly, opportunity is taken to thank the Hospital Authority and the Social Welfare Department for their invaluable comments during the revision of this guideline.

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