Health Advice on Prevention of Severe Respiratory Disease associated with a Novel Infectious Agent for Driver, Crew and Operational Staff of Public Transport

(Interim)

Drivers, crews and operational staff of public transport companies should take the following precautionary measures at their workplaces to minimise the risk of contracting and spreading Severe Respiratory Disease associated with a Novel Infectious Agent.

Disease information

2. Please refer to website of Centre for Health Protection for disease information update:

Affected areas

3. Please refer to website of Centre for Health Protection for affected areas update:

Preventive measures

1. During normal daily life

4. Maintain Good Personal Hygiene
(a) Perform hand hygiene frequently, especially before touching the mouth, nose or eyes, after touching public installations such as handrails or door knobs or when hands are contaminated by respiratory secretion after coughing or sneezing. Wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, then dry with disposable paper towel. If hand washing facilities are not available, or when hands are not visibly soiled, hand hygiene with 70-80% alcohol-based handrub as an effective alternative.

(b) Cover mouth and nose with tissue paper when sneezing or coughing. Dispose the soiled tissues into a lidded rubbish bin, and then clean hands thoroughly.

(c) When staff having respiratory symptoms such as fever and cough, wear surgical mask, refrain from work, avoid going to crowded places and seek medical advice promptly.

(d) N95 respirators are generally not recommended for use by the general public in community settings because special training is required for proper wearing and removal of the mask. Otherwise the infective risk due to inadequate protection and contamination may be ironically increased.

(e) Build up good body immunity by having a balanced diet, regular exercise, adequate rest, reducing stress, do not smoke and avoid alcohol consumption.

(f) Avoid unnecessary travel to affected areas. Upon returning from the affected areas, members of the public should observe the health conditions closely for 14 days.

5. Maintain good ventilation

(a) Ensure the air-conditioning system is functioning well with sufficient fresh air supply in the compartments.

(b) Ensure the air filter and ducting are cleaned regularly and maintained in good working condition at all times.
Follow the “Practice Note on Managing Air Quality in Air-conditioned Public Transport Facilities” as recommended by Environmental Protection Department:

6. Maintain good environmental hygiene

(a) Clean and disinfect compartments regularly with 1:99 diluted household bleach (mixing 1 part of 5.25% bleach with 99 parts of water), leave for 15-30 minutes, and then rinse with water and wipe dry. For metallic surface, disinfect with 70% alcohol. Pay attention to the cleaning of seats, handrails, safety belts and buckles and air inlet/outlet inside compartments.

(b) If places are contaminated by respiratory secretions, vomitus or excreta, use absorbent disposable towels to wipe them away. Then disinfect the surface and neighbouring areas with 1:49 diluted household bleach (mixing 1 part of 5.25% bleach with 49 parts of water), leave for 15-30 minutes and then rinse with water and keep dry. For metallic surface, disinfect with 70% alcohol.

(c) Use appropriate personal protective equipment e.g. gloves and surgical mask when carrying out cleansing works.

II. During the Serious Response Level for the Respiratory Disease associated with a Novel Infectious Agent

7. Enhance personal hygiene

(a) Staff should wear a surgical mask when required to work face to face with public or in crowded area.

8. Enhance ventilation
(a) Keep windows open as appropriate and where possible to maintain good ventilation, including the driver/captain’s cabin. Not applicable to trains

(b) For enclosed or air-conditioning compartments, the fresh air inlet volume should be adjusted to the maximum level.

9. Enhance environmental hygiene

(a) Step up cleansing schedule.

(b) Clean and disinfect compartments at least daily with 1:99 diluted household bleach (mixing 1 part of 5.25% bleach with 99 parts of water), leave for 15-30 minutes, and then rinse with water and wipe dry. For metallic surface, disinfect with 70% alcohol.

(c) Assign staff to monitor closely the cleansing works for compartments at termini/piers in between departures.

10. Public protection

(a) Advise passengers with symptoms of respiratory infection or fever to wear surgical masks.

(b) Assist the passengers to call ambulance service or the Marine Police (if on out-lying island) for conveyance them to the hospital when needed.

7 January 2020
(Last updated on 20 January 2020)
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