

*Multi-pronged Approach to Support
RCHs during COVID-19 Pandemic
- Sharing of Hong Kong's Experience*

**Licensing and Regulation Branch
Social Welfare Department
The Government of the
Hong Kong Special Administrative Region**

10 December 2021

***Time-limited Programme on Enhancing
Infection Control and Ventilation of
Residential Care Homes***

(Infection Control and Ventilation Programme)

Launched in December 2020

Background

- **Outbreak of COVID-19 in Residential Care Homes (RCHs)**
- **Joint inspection Visits**
 - ◆ by the Department of Health (DH), the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) and the Social Welfare Department (SWD) to six private RCHs and two private RCHDs in August 2020
- **Some key observations in the joint inspection visits :**
 - ◆ sharing of washing basin for face & mouth cleansing
 - ◆ insufficient compliance to carry out high risk care procedures such as mouth cleansing, nasogastric tube feeding, Foley care, bathing/body cleansing, changes of napkins
 - ◆ inadequate and uneven distribution of air changes

Scope of Infection Control and Ventilation Programme

Covering over 1 100 residential care homes for the elderly (RCHEs), residential care homes for persons with disabilities (RCHDs) and SWD-subsidised Nursing Homes (NHs) (hereafter referred as RCHs)

Components of Infection Control and Ventilation Programme

- a) on-site assessment and training on infection control for frontline staff in RCHs
- b) on-site ventilation assessment for RCHs
- c) One-off special grant supported by the Hong Kong Jockey Club Charity Trust (HKJCCT)

Component (a)

On-site Assessment and Training on Infection Control

- ▶ conducted by registered nurses
- ▶ involving at least 4 on-site assessment and training sessions for each RCH in a year
- ▶ based on the checklist on infection control measures with input by DH

Component (a)

Checklist on Infection Control Measures

Annex 2

預防 冠狀病毒病 院舍感染控制措施檢視表

院舍名稱：_____ 牌照處檔號：_____

檢視日期：_____ 評估員姓名／職位：_____

【為進一步協助院舍加強感染控制措施，社會福利署透過營辦「院舍外展醫生到診服務」的非政府機構安排護士依據此檢視表，到院舍實地檢視現有的感染控制措施，並就院舍的實際情況提供改善建議，並教授員工有關防疫知識和技巧。】



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單元一：為職員、院友、訪客而設的措施			
項目	選項 (請於適當的 <input type="checkbox"/> 加上✓)	正確處理方法	院舍員工 仍需要加 強培訓的 項目 「✓」
A：為職員而設的措施			
1. 上班時有戴上外科 口罩	<input type="checkbox"/> 有 <input type="checkbox"/> 沒有	職員上班時應戴上外科口罩	
2. 每天上班前自行量 度體溫	<input type="checkbox"/> 有 <input type="checkbox"/> 沒有	職員每天上班前自行量度體溫。如有發燒、 呼吸道徵狀或突然喪失味覺或嗅覺，不應上 班，並須立刻求醫及通知院舍	
3. 照顧不同院友之間 有潔手	<input type="checkbox"/> 有 <input type="checkbox"/> 沒有	職員照顧不同院友之間記得潔手	
4. 避免安排職員在不 同院舍工作	<input type="checkbox"/> 有 <input type="checkbox"/> 沒有	避免安排職員在不同院舍工作	
5. 安排職員於院舍內 同一房間/區域/樓 層照顧同一群組的 院友	<input type="checkbox"/> 有 <input type="checkbox"/> 沒有	安排職員（尤其是負責個人照顧服務的員 工）於院舍內同一房間/區域/樓層照顧同一 群組的院友，避免或減少不必要的員工調動	
6. 職員用膳時有保持 距離，用膳後儘快 戴上口罩	<input type="checkbox"/> 有 <input type="checkbox"/> 沒有	職員用膳時應保持距離及避免除下口罩時談 話，用膳前應潔手，用膳後儘快戴上口罩	

Component (b)

On-site Ventilation Assessment

- ▶ professional engineering teams conducted ventilation assessment and follow-up visit(s) to each RCHs
- ▶ followed by a thorough assessment report
- ▶ recommendation: air purifiers and associated items required in RCHs

Component (b)

Staffing Requirement of an Engineering Team

Grade of Staff	Role	Qualification
Professional Engineer	Team leader	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Member of HKIE in Building Services Engineering or Mechanical Engineering or equivalent 3 years' experience in air-conditioning design or 6 years' experience in maintenance of air-conditioning installations
Inspector	Sub-team head	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Higher diploma / higher certificate in Building Services Engineering or Mechanical Engineering or equivalent 3 years' experience in supervision of air-conditioning project or 6 years' experience in maintenance of air-conditioning installations
Work Supervisor	Team member	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Diploma / Ordinary certificate in Building Services Engineering or Mechanical Engineering or equivalent 3 years' experience in supervision of air-conditioning projects or 6 years' experience in maintenance of air-conditioning installations

Component (b)

Guiding Principles on Ventilation Assessment

Items	Suggested Standard (tentative)
Fresh air supply at dormitory	10 L/s/person
Distance between fresh air intake and other sources of contamination	7.5 m
Air flow pattern	Clean zones → Dirty zones → Exhaust
Isolation room ventilation	Negative air pressure: 10 L/s/person
Toilet / bath ventilation	10 ACH (Exhaust)
Kitchen ventilation (separate system)	5 ACH
Dining area ventilation (separate system)	4 ACH (Fresh air)
Laundry Ventilation	10 ACH (Exhaust)

Component (b)

Ventilation Assessment and Recommendation Report

Appendix II



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Ventilation Assessment and Recommendation Report

Name of RCHE / RCHD _____ (Eng)

_____ (Chi)

LORCHE / LORCHD number : _____

Date(s) of Assessment: _____

Name of Contractor Company: _____

Date of Report: _____

Component (c)

Time-limited Programme on Enhancing Infection Control and Ventilation of RCHEs/RCHDs

Recommendations on Procurement of Ventilation Improvement Facilities (to be completed by the Engineering Team)

Name of RCHE / RCHD _____ (Eng)

 _____ (Chi)

LORCHE / LORCHD number : _____

Date(s) of Assessment: _____

Name of Contractor Company: _____

Date of Report: _____

S/N	Items Recommended	(Quantity)	Suggested Models
1	Air purifier / Air disinfection equipment	_____ air purifiers featured with HEPA filter, UV-C light and _____ generation of _____ ACH	1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____ 5. _____
2	H13 Grade HEPA Filter		
3	Exhaust fans		

Signature : _____

Name of the Team Leader : _____

Professional qualification* : _____

Date : _____

(Company chop)

* e.g. MHKIE(BS) / MCIBSE CEng / etc

Component (c)

Jockey Club Facilities Enhancement Scheme for Pandemic Preparedness at Residential Care Homes

Equipment to enhance infection control for Private RCHs

1. **Air Purifier (H13 HEPA)** featured with UV-C device
(comply with relevant safety standards)
2. **H13 Grade HEPA filter** (minimum efficiency of 99.97% in removing small particles of sizes larger than 0.3 micrometer from air)
3. **Exhaust Fan** (including installation, if applicable)

Component (c)

Progress of the HKJC Scheme (Private RCHs)

(as at end of Sept 2021)

Component (a)	Component (b)	Component (c)
No. of On-site Assessment and training delivered by Registered Nurses	No. of On-site Ventilation Assessment conducted by Engineering Teams	No. of One-off Special Grant Application approved by HKJCCT (still in progress)
2 000	679 (99.7% of all 681 RCHs joined)	374 (secured \$139 million for the Programme)

Other anti-epidemic measures in RCHs

COVID-19 Testing and Vaccination

- Up to 8 Dec 2021, arrangement of 21 rounds of voluntary testing for residents
- Up to 8 Dec , monitoring of RCHs' compliance with 4 rounds of compulsory testing requirement for staff members
- Up to the end of Nov 2021, 95% staff members received at least one dose of vaccine, including 94.4% having completed a full vaccination course

Other anti-epidemic measures in RCHs

Provision of face masks to staff members and residents

- ▶ Between Feb 2020 and Nov 2021, a total of 62 million face masks have been distributed

Subsidies for :

- ▶ Anti-virus coating spray
- ▶ Procurement of personal protective equipment & sanitising items
- ▶ Manpower support
- ▶ One-off special allowance to encourage staff members to receive COVID-19 vaccination

Other anti-epidemic measures in RCHs

Set-up of quarantine centres

- For residents who are close contacts of confirmed cases

Management

- Letters to remind the stepping up of infection control and personal and environment hygiene measures
- Contingency guidelines in response to the follow-up actions required for quarantine of residents

同心抗疫 *Together,
We Fight the Virus!*

Thank you