



MARITIME AND PORT AUTHORITY OF SINGAPORE

PORT MARINE NOTICE
No. 73 of 2003

01 Jul 2003

Shipping Community
Harbour Craft Community
Pleasure Craft Community

**LIST OF MEDICAL GROUPS AND DEDICATED CRAFT (SEA AMBULANCE)
AND HEALTH ADVISORY ON SARS FOR THE SEA TRANSPORT OF FEBRILE
PASSENGERS**

1 Attached are details of medical groups, craft operators and the health advisory issued by the Singapore Ministry of Health on the sea transport of febrile passengers:

- (a) **Appendix 1** - List of medical groups that could be contacted to attend to febrile passengers/crew of ships in port
- (b) **Appendix 2** - List of craft operators that provide sea transport of febrile persons
- (c) **Appendix 3** - The Health Advisory issued by the Singapore Ministry of Health for the sea transport of febrile persons

2 For further information on SARS, please call the Ministry of Health Hotline at 1800-3339999 or visit the MOH website at www.moh.gov.sg.

3 This notice supersedes Port Marine Notice No. 48 of 2003.

EDMUND WEE
for PORT MASTER
MARITIME AND PORT AUTHORITY OF SINGAPORE

List of Medical Groups in Singapore prepared to assist with possible SARS cases

1. **SeaCare Maritime Medical Centre**
 165 Tanjong Pagar Road
 #04-08A, The Amara
 Singapore 088539
 Tel: 62227728 (24 hours)
 Fax: 62255426
 Email: seacare@pacific.net.sg
 Contact: Dr Chia Yih Woei/Dr Richard Kong

2. **Gleneagles Maritime Medical Centre**
 120 Cantonment Road
 #02-05 Maritime House
 Singapore 089760
 Tel: 62236066 (24 hours)
 Fax: 62236055
 Email: seafarer@magix.com.sg
 Contact: Dr C K Lee/Dr Ivan Chan/Dr M. Ansari

3. **City & Med Health Associates Pte Ltd**
 19 Keppel Road
 #01-01 Jit Poh Building
 Singapore 089058
 Tel: 62262636
 Fax: 62262733
 Contact: Dr Chan Suen Meng (H/P 98305811)

4. **Raffles Medical Group**
 585 North Bridge Road
 Singapore 188770
 Tel: 63111347
 Fax: 63112390
 Email: siewhoon@rafflesmedical.com
 Contact: Ms Tan Siew Hoon, Snr Corporate Manager
 NB: Would only serve companies that have make prior contract with them.

5. **Gethin-Jones Medical Practice Pte Ltd**
 460 Alexandra Road #02-01
 PSA Building
 Singapore 119963

Office Hours – Tel	:	62278900
Fax	:	62248491
Contact Person :		Ms Lim Puay Cheng
		Administrator
After Office Hours - Tel :		65358833/65324865
		(International Answering Service)

Please ask them to page for either one of the following doctors:
 Dr David D W Wu / Dr Pang Seow Choon / Dr Yeo Lock Peow / Dr Quah Tee Hwa

**LIST OF LAUNCH OPERATORS AVAILABLE FOR EVACUATING FEBRILE
CREW FROM SHIPS AT THE ANCHORAGES**

S/No	Company	Name of Contact Person	Office Tel.	Hand phone	Remarks
1	Kanlian Ferry Services Co.	Ms Tammy Ong	6561-2102	9001-2038	No OPL Services
2	HCA Marine Services Pte Ltd	Mr Michael Yong	6773-2782	9786 -1622	Includes OPL Services
3	York Launch Service Pte Ltd	Mr Zainal Abidin	6842-1955	9736 -0988	No OPL Services
4	Eng Hup Shipping Pte Ltd	Ms Justina Lim	6532-6662	9615-3922	No OPL Services



HEALTH ADVISORY 106/2003

Advice on SARS for *Sea Transport of Febrile Passengers* (Updated 18 June 2003)

GENERAL INFORMATION ON SARS

1. The World Health Organisation has issued a global alert on the outbreak of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) in several countries. Places affected by SARS could change with time. You should check the WHO website at <http://www.who.int/csr/sarsareas/en/> for the latest update on SARS-affected areas.
2. The main criteria for suspected cases of SARS are:
 - a. High fever and symptoms including cough, shortness of breath or breathing difficulty; **and**
 - b. Travel history to affected areas within 10 days of onset of the symptoms; or history of close contact¹ with person(s) diagnosed with SARS.
3. Not all travelers to affected areas will be infected with SARS. People arriving from these areas can carry out their normal daily activities as long as they are well. However, they should monitor their health closely and if they develop any of the symptoms listed above, they should seek immediate medical attention.

OBJECTIVE OF ADVISORY

4. This advisory describes the measures that should be taken for febrile passengers who require transport by sea. Such passengers can be divided broadly into two groups :
 - a. Febrile passengers who are suspect or probable SARS patients.
 - b. Febrile passengers who are not suspect or probable SARS patients.

¹ Close contact means having cared for, lived with, or had direct contact with respiratory secretions and/ or other bodily fluids of a person with SARS.



SEA TRANSPORT FOR FEBRILE PASSENGERS WHO ARE SUSPECT OR PROBABLE SARS PASSENGERS

Dedicated craft (sea ambulance)

5. A dedicated craft (sea ambulance) should be used to transport suspect or probable SARS cases. Dedicated crafts should preferably be of the open-type, which are well ventilated.
6. Suspect or probable SARS patients should be seated preferably at least 2m away from the crew.
7. If more than one suspect/probable SARS patient needs to be transported in the same sea ambulance, they should be kept apart from each other as far as possible. Not more than 2 - 3 patients should be ferried in the same craft at any one time.

Precautionary procedures

8. The suspect/probable SARS patient should be:
 - a. Provided with a surgical mask to wear in order to reduce the amount of droplets coughed into the air. Masks should be changed if they become wet, hard to breathe in, physically damaged or visibly soiled.
 - b. Advised to cover his/her mouth and nose with tissues when coughing or sneezing, if a surgical mask is not available.
9. The crew on board the sea ambulance should:
 - a. Minimise their contact with the suspect/probable SARS patient.
 - b. Wear an N95² mask, gloves and gown when attending to such patients if close contact is anticipated or if the wheelhouse is open to the patient-care compartment.
 - c. Wash their hands thoroughly with soap and water after each contact with the suspect/probable SARS patient or disinfect their hands with hand sanitizer immediately after removing gloves.
10. There should preferably be no eating and drinking during patient transport.

SEA TRANSPORT OF FEBRILE PASSENGERS WHO ARE NOT SUSPECT OR PROBABLE SARS PASSENGERS

11. Passengers who have a fever but have no respiratory symptoms, no travel history to SARS-affected areas and no contact history with SARS patients in

² Please follow manufacturer's instruction on the proper use of N95 masks. N95 masks should be discarded after attending to each person suspected to have SARS.



the last 2 weeks can be transported in suitable well ventilated crafts. A dedicated craft need not be used for such passengers.

Isolation of Passenger

12. The febrile passenger should be isolated in a designated sector of the vessel. This sector should be situated at a corner of the vessel that is not in the direct pathway to the lavatory, washing facilities and exits. The sector should be cordoned off to prevent other passengers or crew from coming into contact with the febrile passenger. No other passenger or crew should be seated:
 - a. In the same row as the febrile passenger.
 - b. 2 rows in front or behind the febrile passenger.
13. If the febrile person is a child or a dependent adult, they can be accompanied by another passenger. The accompanying passenger should be seated together with the febrile passenger and be isolated together in the same sector.

Precautionary procedures

14. The febrile passenger should be:
 - a. Provided with a surgical mask to wear in order to reduce the amount of droplets coughed into the air. Masks should be changed if they become wet, hard to breathe in, physically damaged or visibly soiled.
 - b. Advised to cover his/her mouth and nose with tissues when coughing or sneezing if a surgical mask is not available.
15. The crew on board the sea ambulance should:
 - a. Minimise contact with the febrile passengers
 - b. Wear an N95³ mask when attending to such passengers if close contact is anticipated
 - c. Wash their hands thoroughly with soap and water after each contact with the ill passenger or disinfect their hands with hand sanitizer immediately after removing gloves

Embarking and Disembarking

16. The febrile passenger should embark before the other non-febrile passengers. The febrile passenger should disembark only after all other passengers have done so.

³ Please follow manufacturer's instruction on the proper use of N95 masks. N95 masks should be discarded after attending to each person suspected to have SARS.



CLEANING AND DISINFECTION AFTER TRANSPORTING A FEBRILE PASSENGER

17. After disembarkation, the areas where the febrile passenger (suspect/probable SARS as well as not suspect or probable SARS) has been seated should be sealed off for cleaning and disinfection.
18. There is no need for special cleaning or disinfection of other areas in which the febrile passenger has not been seated. Routine cleaning should be carried out as per normal. No special precautions are needed for routine cleaning. When cleaning these areas, cleaners should:
 - a. Wear disposable gloves. Gloves should be removed and discarded if they become soiled or damaged, and a new pair should be worn. Gloves should also be removed and discarded after cleaning activities are completed.
 - b. Wear a surgical mask. Masks should be changed if they become wet, hard to breathe in, physically damaged or visibly soiled.
 - c. Wash their hands with soap and water immediately after the gloves are removed and when cleaning is complete.
19. Cleaning methods that may re-aerosolise infectious material, such as the use of compressed air, must not be used.
20. Frequently touched surfaces (eg. arm rests, seats, tables, door knobs, windows and adjacent wall surfaces should be wiped down with chemical disinfectants (use according to manufacturer's instructions) and allowed to air dry.
21. All items (eg sea-sickness bags, masks, napkins, utensils, magazines, etc) used by the febrile passenger should be placed inside leak resistant plastic bags and sealed for disposal.
22. Soiled cushions that require cleaning and disinfection should be placed in leak resistant laundry bags and sealed for disposal.

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH FOR CREW MEMBERS

23. Crew members should be on the alert for SARS-related symptoms. A crew member should seek medical attention immediately if he develops fever within 10 days of being in contact with a colleague/passenger who was ill with fever. He should call **993** to request for special transport to bring him to Tan Tock Seng Hospital for assessment.

FURTHER INFORMATION ON SARS

24. For further information on SARS, please call the Ministry of Health Hotline at **1800-333 9999** or visit the MOH website at <http://www.moh.gov.sg/>



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25. For the special ambulance service for transportation to Tan Tock Seng Hospital, please call **993 (24 hours)**.
 26. For clarifications on this advisory, please call Epidemiology & Disease Control Division at **63259181/96654196**.
 27. Please send feedback on this advisory to moh_info@moh.gov.sg.

IMPORTANT

This advisory supercedes the Interim Health Advisory on Transport of Suspect SARS For Dedicated Craft (For Sea Ambulance) Operators dated 28 April 2003 with immediate effect.

Ministry of Health, Singapore
(Updated 18 Jun 03)