

OPTOMETRISTS BOARD
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3 June 2015

Miss Victoria LAW Kwai-mei
President
The Hong Kong Society of Professional Optometrists
Unit 1204, 12/F, Kowloon Building
555 Nathan Road
Kowloon

Dear Miss Law,

Cases of Middle East Respiratory Syndrome in Korea

Upon the advice of the Centre for Health Protection (“CHP”), we would like to inform you of the updated situation of Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (“MERS”) in Korea. The health authority of Korea has reported 7 additional MERS cases on 2 June 2015. Five cases were in-patients or visitors who had contact with the index case (68-year-old man) in the hospital during the period from 15 to 17 May 2015. For the remaining two cases, they were in-patients who stayed in the same ward with another confirmed MERS case in another hospital from 28 to 30 May 2015. These two cases did not have direct contact with the index and could be regarded as tertiary cases.

As at 2 June 2015, 25 MERS cases have been involved in this outbreak, including 24 cases confirmed by Korea and an additional case exported to Huizhou, Guangdong from Korea. Among the cases, two deaths have been reported by Korea today involving a 71-year-old man and a 58-year-old woman. Both had chronic medical diseases.

In view of this evolving situation in Korea, CHP advises the public to avoid unnecessary visit to healthcare facilities in Seoul, Korea, and that includes exchange programmes in healthcare facilities. CHP would like to reiterate the importance of stringent infection control in the hospital settings. Healthcare workers (“HCWs”)

should apply standard precautions consistently with all patients in all work practices at all times. Droplet precautions should be added when providing care to patients or clients with symptoms of acute respiratory infection. Contact precautions and eye protection should be added when caring for probable or confirmed MERS cases, and airborne precautions should be applied when performing aerosol-generating procedures.

For latest information on MERS, please visit the CHP website at <http://www.chp.gov.hk/en/index.html>.

I am grateful if you would assist in disseminating the above messages to all members of your association accordingly.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Angel Chan', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

(Ms Angel CHAN)
Secretary, Optometrists Board