

CMAAO

COVID-19 Countermeasure Report Taiwan Medical Association



Countermeasure

1. General Mobilization at TMA to Centrally Allocate Disease Prevention Resources for Primary Care Facilities and Secure First Line of Defense

- Members of the TMA were worried about the shortage in medical masks available for buyers when they re-opened for business after the Chinese New Year vacation. TMA immediately approach the Centers for Disease Control and medical mask manufacturers for a million medical masks.
- The management of the TMA visited the Centers for Disease Control to discuss jointly with Minister of Health and Welfare details involved in centralized command, preparation, and distribution of medical resources needed for disease prevention at healthcare facilities.
- Since February 2020, the TMA has been keeping records on a daily basis of the quantity of medical masks picked up by medical associations in respective cities and counties from local health departments and ready for investigating the distribution and shortage of disease prevention resources in respective cities and counties at any time.
- Members of the TMA indicated that it was uneasy for primary care facilities to buy forehead thermometers given the increased demand. The TMA helped purchase 5,400 forehead thermometers and they were delivered to medical associations in respective cities and counties.



Countermeasure

2. TMA Management Appears in News Media and Programs to Assure Taiwan People, Reinforce National Confidence, and Unite in Fight against Pandemic

- In order to prevent the general public from panicking in the midst of the pandemic, the management of the TMA to appear in news media and programs as soon as the pandemic broke out where they were able to communicate good personal hygiene habits to the viewers and audience and to adequately give an update of the pandemic answering to the government's disease prevention policy so that people would feel assured and stay united in the fight against the pandemic.



Countermeasure

3. TMA Holds Response Meetings from Time to Time as Needed to Form Safe Nationwide Community-based Disease Prevention Network

- Since January 30, 2020, the TMA has held 11 response meetings in total as needed reflective of the latest developments. The meetings were presided over by Chairman Tai-Yuan Chiu and medical associations, scholars and experts, and related societies in respective cities and counties were invited to take part.



Countermeasure

3. TMA Holds Response Meetings from Time to Time as Needed to Form Safe Nationwide Community-based Disease Prevention Network

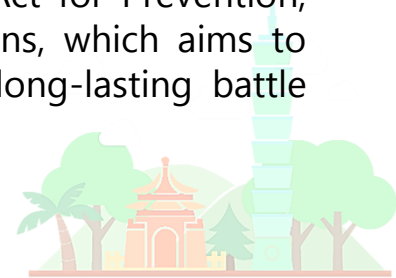
- Besides discussing the current status of the preventive effort in each of the cities and counties, a priority of these response meetings was to form a safe and robust disease prevention network in Taiwan where healthcare facilities throughout the nation work together following the classification and triage model so that a community-based healthcare disease prevention system may be secured in the prevention against a possible comeback of the pandemic in the future for the protection of the people's life, health, and safety.



Countermeasure

4. Regulatory Allowance, Compensation, Relief, and Incentive for Healthcare Facilities Working around the Clock to Prevent against Outbreak

- Since the onset of COVID-19, healthcare facilities have been working proactively answering to the government's disease prevention policy and have contributed significantly to the successful prevention against community-acquired infections.
- Thanks to the joint efforts of the fifty thousand physicians affiliated with the TMA and the first-line healthcare professionals throughout the nation, all healthcare institutions and related staff that have been working around the clock in the prevention against an outbreak are entitled to reasonable allowance, compensation, relief, and incentives under the Special Act for Prevention, Relief and Revitalization Measures for Severe Pneumonia with Novel Pathogens, which aims to support healthcare facilities throughout the nation working together in this long-lasting battle against the pandemic.



Countermeasure

5. Medical Community Continues to Safeguard People's Life and Safety and Taiwan in Post Pandemic Era

- The TMA indicates that, besides holding response meetings at any time to discuss the countermeasures, given the rapidly changing developments, experts will be invited in the future, too, to jointly discuss how to build a medical care and disease prevention-based national safety system in the post-pandemic era and that the TMA will continue leading fifty thousand physicians throughout the nation while working together to safeguard the health and safety of the people in Taiwan.



Countermeasure

6. Assistance in Preparing Related Guidelines for COVID-19

- Infection Control Guidelines for Primary Care Facilities against COVID-19
- Advice on Isolating COVID-19 Patients upon Hospital Admission and Bilateral Referrals
- Precautions for Referrals through COVID-19 Community-based Sampling Network



Countermeasure

7. Successfully Sought Automatic Extension of Practitioner License Due in 2020 and Specialist Certificate in 2020 and 2021 to Enable Physicians Devote Fully to Disease Prevention

- In order for physicians in the first line of defense against an outbreak to have nothing to be worried about, the TMA advised the Ministry of Health and Welfare on the waiver of the required application for an update or an extension of the effective period that appears on the Practitioner License or the Specialist Certificate, is expiring, and needs to be updated or extended.



Countermeasure

8. “2020 Special Contribution Award in Disease Prevention”

- In light of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, to thank physicians for their effort in keeping the pandemic at bay, the 2020 Special Contribution Award in Disease Prevention is organized. Physicians with special contributions in the fight against COVID-19 are recognized for their silent dedication, having stood fast and remained at their post, and their unselfish care for other people.



Countermeasure

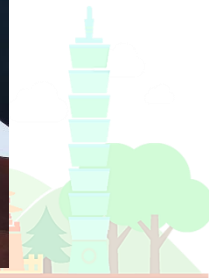
9. Primary Care Facilities as First Line of Defense against Outbreak

- Around 73% of people returning from China, Hong Kong, and Macao would seek medical attention in a clinic. Primary care physicians refer them to hospitals for screening and a diagnosis, doing a properly job as first line of triage to prevent against community transmission.
- For those who need to see a doctor during home isolation, home quarantine, and self-health management, home-based medical care service is available.



International Exchange and Relationship

Preparation of the Draft CMAAO Taipei Statement on Collaborative Work for Managing Novel Pathogen Pandemic



International Exchange and Relationship

Interview with Secretary General Dr. Otmar Kloiber of the WMA on COVID-19



International Exchange and Relationship

Attendance in CMAAO COVID-19 virtual meeting



International Exchange and Relationship

Virtual interview with the Department of Health of Austria on COVID-19



International Exchange and Relationship

Virtual interview with Professor Yasuharu Tokuda from Okinawa, Japan on COVID-19



International Exchange and Relationship

Virtual interview with Mr. Keith Cooper and Ms. Arthy Hartwell
of the British Medical Association on COVID-19

