#### 56<sup>th</sup> CMAAO CONGRESS



香港醫學會 THE HONG KONG MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

2019-2020 REPORT

#### **SOCIAL MOVEMENT IN HONG KONG**

- In 2<sup>nd</sup> half of 2019, Hong Kong experienced a period of turbulence triggered by the Fugitive Offender Amendment Bill.
- There were violent crashes between protesters and the police. Some members of the medical profession and allied health served as first aiders voluntarily at the conflict zones.
- The HKMA organized two "Symposium on Humanitarian Medical Support in Conflict Zone" to equip doctors and medical students on medical knowledge and support during mass events.
- During the period, most of our academic and social activities were suspended.



## **SOCIAL MOVEMENT IN HONG KONG**

- The international medical community has expressed concern on humanitarian assistance to protestors and safety of healthcare personnel at the vicinity.
- The HKMA was keeping dialogue with the medical fraternity.







#### The HKMA 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary ①①① 類年 福根香港 維護民康 Safeguarding People's Health in HK

- Year 2020 marks the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the HKMA. However, most celebration events were cancelled due to COVID-19 epidemic.
- On 24/11/2019, a Kick-off Ceremony for the HKMA Centennial Celebration cum Symposium on "Dilemmas on Clinical Practices in Cardiology" was held.
- The Cardiology Symposium covered a number of controversial and pressing topics.



# **COVID-19 : Safeguarding People's Health**

- Alarm of cluster of pneumonia cases in Wuhan in early Jan 2020.
- Prof. KY YUEN, Hong Kong expert in Infectious Diseases, visited Wuhan on 17/1/2020 to assess the situation.
- Prof. Zhong Nan-shan admitted there was evidence confirming human-to-human transmissibility of the novel coronavirus on 20/1/2020.
- First imported case recorded in Hong Kong on 22/1/2020.







# **COVID-19 : Safeguarding People's Health**

- The HKMA keep updating the public the latest development of the infectious disease and gave preventive advices through press conferences and statements.
- Reminded the public to maintain personal hygiene, wear mask in public places, wash hands frequently, and avoid going to crowded places.

Date	Press Conferences / Press Releases https://www.thkma.org/press_release.php
23/1/2020	Control Recommendations on Novel Coronavirus Infection
28/1/2020	Latest Development of Novel Coronavirus
6/2/2020	Mask Supply for the Medical Profession
16/2/2020	Immediate Evacuation of Hong Kong Passengers From Diamond Princess
20/2/2020	Your Protection Against COVID-19
25/3/2020	Stand Together, Stay Apart, United We Fight COVID-19
28/5/2020	Stay Vigilant against COVID-19
3/6/2020	Concerns over increase in community cases / Listing of COVID-19 as Occupational Disease
23/7/2020	Combating the 3 <sup>rd</sup> wave of COVID-19
27/8/2020	The HKMA Advices on COVID-19 and the "Universal Community Testing Programme"

#### **COVID-19 : Safeguarding People's Health**

■ More details on Report on the Countermeasures against COVID-19





# **COVID-19 : PPE for Medical Professionals**

- Since Jan 2020, there was a shortage of surgical mask and PPE supply. Some private doctors in Hong Kong had to close their clinics for this reason.
- In late Jan 2020, the HKMA liaised with the government and acquired 30,000 surgical masks for members to tide over the crisis.
- The HKMA tried diligently to source surgical masks for members



# **COVID-19 : PPE for Medical Professionals**

- After we made public the shortage at a press conference, we received mask donation from different organizations.
- All were distributed to members at the HKMA Secretariat.











# **COVID-19 : Universal Community Testing Programme (UCTP)**

- The HKSAR Government launched the Universal Community Testing Programme (UCTP) on 1 /9/ 2020 for early detection of asymptomatic COVID-19 patients in the community. Hong Kong citizens may join on voluntary basis free-of-charge.
- The HKMA helped to recruit doctors to join the programme as swabbing team members.
- The HKMA concerned about the ventilation of the community centres, protective gears and insurance coverage for team members.



# **COVID-19 : Universal Community** Testing Programme (UCTP)

- The HKMA President and other Council members supported the programme.
- We also recruited around 200 doctors, medical students, nurses and other allied health to help in the programme.









- The HKMA operates two elderly community projects in Chai Wan District in Hong Kong East, and Kwai Ching District in Kowloon West.
- Wellness Courses were provided to the elderly (and caregivers) to strengthen their self-care capacity on disease prevention; and the outreach team would visit the elders regularly to provide social support and basic health check-ups.
- Since early 2020, most of the activities were held up due to COVID-19.











- During COVID-19 epidemic, our outreach ambassadors continued to visit the needy elderly in community and sent them masks, sanitizing hand rub and other daily necessities.
- 6,860 pieces of masks were distributed to elderly households.
- "Call To Care Team" extended during the pandemic.



- Our student volunteers made some hygiene educational videos to make it easier for the elders to follow.
  - 防疫三部曲:第一部-「正確佩戴口罩步驟」老友記外展大使 Andy YUEN https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b\_gsupyNQYw
  - 防疫三部曲:第二部-「正確使用梘液洗手步驟」老友記外展大使 Marco MAK https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x2zzuNisX\_w
  - 防疫三部曲:第二部-「正確使用視液洗手步驟」老友記外展大使 Olivia CHOW https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OXch2QJLxb4
  - ➢ 防疫三部曲:第三部-「正確使用酒精搓手液步驟」老友記外展大使 Vivien WAN https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\_iqFeZuEyiA
  - 「資深老友記外展大使同老友記為學生義工打打氣」 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9xvhWSxNG6A







- Anti-epidemic messages were sent in WhatsApp to remind elderlies to maintain good hygiene habit
- "Cheer-up Campaign" was launched in Instagram in cultivating the care and love to singletons or elderly couples in community
- First online volunteers training using ZOOM was held on 15/8/2020, 19 volunteers attended the training on "Care-On-Call Service".

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- The HKMA helped to set up the Paediatric Home Respiratory Support Society (PHRESS) in 2017.
- All scheduled activities suspended in 2020.
- Keep checking with PHRESS members if they have enough masks or sanitizing agents.
- Also concerned if they could access to medical care during the epidemic.



# Other activities held in times of social instability and COVID-19.

# **Continuous Medical Education (CME)**

- Due to the aforesaid reasons, most of the CME classes were cancelled.
- We later turned to Facebook LIVE or Zoom classes to provide CME to members.
- The number of participants joining CME LIVE grew significantly over the period. For incidence, 16 online CME lectures were held in August 2020 and the number of participants reached 7,000, bringing the average per lecture to 400, which is a fivefold increase compared to physical attendance.



# **Smoking Cessation & E- Cigarette Ban**

- The HKMA actively promoted a total ban on e-cigarettes and other novel heated tobacco products by urging the Government to introduce legislation and by ways of health education.
- On legislation, the HKMA representative attended the Joint Press Conference on "Raise Tobacco Tax Substantially to Achieve Tobacco Endgame" called by COSH (Hong Kong Council on Smoking and Health) on 14 /1/2020. We urged the Government to raise tobacco tax by 100% and also subsequent annual tax hikes, in order to accelerate the reduction in tobacco consumption to protect public health.
- Regrettably, the Bills Committee on Smoking (Public Health) (Amendment) Bill 2019 of the Hong Kong Legislative Council decided to cease its work on 2/6/2020. That means the legislation to prohibit the import, manufacture, sale, distribution and advertisement of alternative smoking products could not be passed in the foreseeable future.



# **Smoking Cessation & E- Cigarette Ban**

- On education, we joined hands with the Hong Kong Professional Teachers' Union in organizing school talks titled "The Harms of Electronic Cigarettes and Other Novel Heated Tobacco Products and Discussion" in 2019, educating secondary students to say no to these products.
- Worked closely with COSH by supporting a series of health seminars to promote the importance of smoke-free environment. Our doctors and medical students helped conduct health talks in the "Smoke-free Teens" summer camp 2019. We gave full support to School Health Seminar on Alternative Smoking Products by COSH.
- Gave a health talk on the harm of e-cigarettes for the Adolescent Health Programme of the Department of Health. There were approximately 50 participants of doctors, nurses, social workers and clinical psychologists.



# **Vaccination Public Private Interface (PPI)**

- To enhance public awareness on vaccination and promote a higher vaccination rate among Hong Kong citizens
- The overall influenza vaccination uptake rate in Hong Kong is about 15%
- Uptake rate among the healthcare workers is approximately 27%



# **Vaccination PPI**

- Due to the low uptake rate, the HKMA advocated:
  - healthcare professionals should get vaccinated as early as possible to protect the patients, themselves as well as their families;
  - Government should provide vaccine subsidy for all general public to get vaccinated, so as to boost the overall uptake rate in Hong Kong to reduce the seasonal influenza-association deaths every year.





#### **Organ Donation**

- Organized the 4<sup>th</sup> Organ Donation Promotion Walk entitled "Spring Sowers" in early 2020 to arouse public awareness of the importance of organ donation and encourage Hong Kong citizens to register with the Centralised Organ Donation Register (CODR).
- Government Officials, Legislative Councilor and representatives of all co-organizers attended. Over 300 participants, including organ transplant recipients and doctors, supported the event.



Up to end 2019, the no. of registration on ODR accounted about 4% of the HK population. Survey showed only 31% of Hong Kong people is willing to donate organ after death, while 12% reject and >50% do not think about it. Investigation showed only 1/4 of those willing to donate organs are in fact registered online. The HKMA will continue our effort in promoting the good cause.





#### **Publications**





#### To Safeguard the health of the people.