



Committee on Health Promotion and Protection
Annual Report 2019-20
(For the period 1 August 2019 to 31 July 2020)

I. Introduction

In 2019-20, we faced the unprecedented challenges brought by the global pandemic. Since January 2020, the Committee on Health Promotion and Protection (CHPP) has been monitoring the development of COVID-19 and advising strategies for the University to respond to the health emergencies. In line with the Government's announcement on activation of Emergency Response Level on 25 January 2020, CHPP elevated the response level to "Emergency" to step up the preventive and infection control measures on campus.

II. Concerted Efforts to Prevent Pandemic Disease

1. University Health Service

a) Providing Medical Advice to the Emergency Response Group

An Emergency Response Group (ERG) led by the Vice-Chancellor was established in January 2020 to keep abreast of the disease development and coordinate the University's efforts to tackle the threat of COVID-19. Members included senior management, CHPP Chairman, UHS Director and various administrative unit heads. The Group held regular meetings every week, with a total of 52 meetings from January to July 2020. UHS, being the operational arm of CHPP, provides administrative and secretarial support to CHPP.

The Rapid Response Team under ERG was formed in June 2020 with the UHS Director as coordinator. The Team, comprised of heads of CPRO, EMO, FNO, HRO, ISO, ITSC, OSA, SCU, UHS and USO, formulated an Action Plan to deal with confirmed case of COVID-19 infection on campus.

On 2 August 2020, a student who lived in a hostel of United College was diagnosed positive of COVID-19 and was sent to hospital for treatment. The Rapid Response Team activated the ERG Action Plan. The hostel concerned was closed immediately for thorough cleaning and disinfection. Students who had been living on the same floor with the patient were arranged for quarantine and isolation. Staff who had worked in the hostel was arranged to get COVID-19 testing. UHS provided health advice to the close contacts and occupants of the hostel, and maintained close communication with the Centre for Health Protection on follow-up arrangements.

b) "Act Together against COVID-19" Service Hotline and Designated COVID-19 Point of Contact

UHS provides the service hotline and is the point of contact for "Act Together against COVID-19". Up to July 2020, more than 3,000 telephone enquiries have been received. The services provided include:

- To handle reporting of suspected cases and quarantine cases from colleges/departments/units/hostels.

- To advise on preventive measures such as personal and environmental hygiene on campus.
- To provide professional guidelines and recommendations to colleges/departments/units.
- To answer enquiries on health concerns about COVID-19.
- To provide guidance on completion of online Health Declaration Form.
- To advise on precautionary measures on classroom and office settings.
- To provide health advice to staff living with household member who is under quarantine.

c) CU's Point of Contact for UGC Secretariat under COVID-19

UHS is the university's designated contact point for UGC Secretariat in relation to COVID-19. UHS will compile the required information for UGC upon request.

d) Implementation of Awareness and Engagement Programmes for Colleges and Postgraduate Halls (PGH)

During the early outbreak of the novel coronavirus infection in the Mainland, UHS took the initiative to hold an ad hoc meeting on 6 January 2020 with College Secretaries/representatives and PGH coordinator to raise awareness on infection control and precautionary measures in student hostels. CHPP Chairman and UHS Director held a meeting on 23 January 2020 to update colleges and various units on the disease development and measures taken on campus.

In view that the COVID-19 epidemic situation was getting increasingly severe around the Lunar New Year holiday, and the Postgraduate Halls had to deal with a large number of inbound and outbound students, UHS held three ad hoc meetings with PGH student hostel management, including the Dean of Graduate School, Master and Hostel Wardens, to brief them on infection control and disease prevention measures.

The Cohort Policy for Close Contacts of Suspected Cases of 2019-nCoV Infection was formulated and issued to all university members, hostel wardens and resident tutors on 4 February 2020.

In preparation for the 2019/20 Summer Session and the 2020/21 Academic Year, and the provision of Mandatory Home Quarantine (MHQ) facilities for incoming overseas students on campus, UHS held a number of meetings with various units to provide medical advice and guidelines.

Date	Details of Meeting
29-Apr-20	Ad Hoc CHPP Meeting on Strategic Plan for the Next Academic Year under COVID-19 chaired by PVC Prof. T.F. Fok. Strategic Plan for the Next Academic Year was discussed.
05-May-20	Meeting on Preparations for the Next Academic Year under COVID-19 with College Heads and PGH Master chaired by PVC Prof W.Y. Chan. Strategic Plan for the Next Academic Year was reinforced.
28-May-20	Meeting on Infection Control at Student Hostels with College Secretaries, PGH coordinator and OSA. Cohort Policy for Close Contacts of Suspected Cases of COVID-19 Infection in Hostel was reinforced.

09-Jul-20	Meeting on MHQ for Incoming Overseas Students with CPRO, EMO, OSA, USO and SCU. Guidelines on MHQ Arrangements were discussed.
15-Jul-20	Working Group Meeting on MHQ for Incoming Overseas Students with College Secretaries, PGH coordinator, CPRO, EMO, OSA, USO and SCU. Guidelines on MHQ Arrangements were reinforced.

e) Enhancing Awareness and Engagement for Departments/Units

UHS Director, representing CHPP, attended a meeting of the Task Force on Social and Non-academic Events and Workplace Arrangements during COVID-19 chaired by the Vice-President on 5 May 2020. The Task Force deliberated the Referencing Guidelines for Social and Non-academic Events during COVID-19, which was approved by ERG and issued to all units of the University.

f) Mandatory Home Quarantine (MHQ) Arrangements at Chan Kwan Tung Inter-university Hall and Chiang's Building

To meet the possible challenges posed by COVID-19, the University had made available Chan Kwan Tung Inter-university Hall (19 apartments) for quarantine and backup purposes. From February to July 2020, a total of 36 students (including 1 local, 29 mainland and 6 overseas students) had observed their 14-day mandatory home quarantine at Chan Kwan Tung Inter-university Hall. UHS provided medical advice and quarantine support to the students. To cope with the increasing demand for MHQ accommodation on campus, Chiang's Building was also enlisted as the quarantine facility. UHS, CDO, EMO and OSA jointly conducted the site inspection of Chiang's Building on 6 July 2020 to prepare for the commencement of service in August 2020.

g) Procurement and Allocation of Surgical Masks

During the period of severe shortage of surgical masks, UHS (under the instruction of ERG) had utilized its own stock to provide surgical masks to meet the operational requirements of essential units in February 2020. On behalf of CHPP, UHS procured around 420,000 pieces of surgical masks and distributed them to all departments/units/colleges/research units during March-April 2020.

The Government announced in June 2020 to deliver 30 million locally-produced masks to the public free-of-charge through Hongkong Post. Each household would receive a pack of ten disposable adult masks. However, Hongkong Post encountered difficulties in distinguishing office addresses from residential addresses on campus. At the request of UGC, UHS served as the coordinator to collect information of residential households on campus and distributed 5,400 pieces of masks to 540 residential households on campus in mid-July 2020.

h) Enhancing Awareness via University Website and Publications

UHS held an ad hoc meeting with various unit heads including HRO, CPRO, ISO, EMO, SCU, OSA, USO and ITSC to discuss and design the content of FAQs for the "Act Together Against COVID-19" website on 29 January 2020. The website provided the latest information on the University's action and response to COVID-19, advice from CHPP, academic and work arrangements, student housing, and campus services and activities.

The UHS Director received an interview from ISO on the topic of COVID-19 pandemic. An article on social distancing – The Greatest Experiment on Earth – was published in CUHK Newsletter No.560 on 19 June 2020.

i) Enhancing Awareness via Video

UHS and OSA jointly produced a video in July 2020 to introduce services provided by the University Clinic, and to raise awareness of observing personal hygiene, social distancing and preventive measures when attending classes and participating in activities.

2. Communications and Public Relations Office

a) Communication on Infection Control Measures

To provide a ‘one-stop’ information platform and showcase University’s efforts from all fronts to combat COVID-19, a new website ‘Act Against COVID-19’ was launched in March 2020 as a convenient portal of useful information. The University’s announcements and actions in disease prevention, FAQ, online teaching progress, and health tips are regularly updated on this website at <https://www.cuhk.edu.hk/english/whats-on/faces/antivirus-annc.html> and other University e-platforms.

b) Multi-platform Dissemination of Information

With the rapid decision-making and swift follow up actions of the Emergency Response Group, the latest measures were announced to the students, staff, alumni and community through various communication platforms including social media platforms. The communication platforms include mass emails, press release, website, Facebook, Instagram, Telegram, Twitter, etc. To facilitate students staying in the Mainland, important messages have also been disseminated through WeChat.

c) CPRO has produced a series of online public talks, videos on infection control measures, and quarterly e-newsletters to provide the latest information on the university’s concerted efforts in response to the pandemic (Appendix 1).

3. Estates Management Office

As preventive measures, EMO has enhanced the following cleaning works at communal buildings since February 2020:

- Cleaning and disinfection of lift buttons and door handles of main entrances;
- Pouring of 1:99 diluted household bleach into the floor drainage of washrooms;
- Manage the provision of hand disinfectant at classrooms/lecture theatres and lift lobbies of major building entrances.

a) Antivirus Coating Work

To step up the infection control measures in those high-touch areas, EMO engaged a contractor in late July 2020 to provide professional disinfection and anti-virus coating works at all communal classrooms, lecture theatres and some designated buildings such as University Library, University Sports Centre, and University Gymnasium, etc. The effectiveness of the coating would last 3 months up to the end of October 2020 according to product specification. Subject to the test result on the coating effectiveness being

satisfactory, EMO might arrange for another round of antivirus coating works in late October 2020.

b) Disinfection at Affected Work Sites

EMO has supported the emergency measures when staff/student being tested positive for COVID-19 or classified as close contact. EMO has arranged professional company to conduct overall disinfection at the affected worksites for the former case, and in-house staff to carry out disinfection fogging with USO's assistance for the latter.

c) Drinking Fountains

Drinking fountains at communal buildings were suspended from user during the period 20 March 2020 to 20 September 2020 to prevent the spread of diseases.

d) Mask Vending Machines

EMO has jointly worked with FNO to arrange mask vending machines at some designated locations of communal buildings since the end of July so that visitors/students would have mask available for use in case of necessity.

e) Thermal Scanners

To facilitate body temperature checking, EMO has purchased some thermal scanners on behalf of the University. Offices/Units might acquire the device from EMO on loan if face-to-face activities organized by them involve a large number of participants.

4. University Safety Office

Preparation of Alcohol Hand Rub

In view of the epidemic development of coronavirus and the inadequate supply of sanitizers in the market at that time, a total of 3,500L of handrub had been produced by University Safety Office from late January to late March 2020. A significant number of student volunteers had been involved in bottling and distributing both within and outside the campus.

5. Security Office

The following precautionary measures have been adopted:

- Security Office, Control Room and Support Centre are all equipped with 'Body Temperature Sensor' and alcohol hand wash. Common areas and toilets are regularly cleaned with 1:99 bleaching solution every day.
- All security cars are cleaned by 1:99 bleaching solution on interior parts (particularly seats and steering wheel) at least twice a shift by respective staff.
- All security staff are issued with surgical masks everyday while on duty with mandatory use during the course of duty.

6. Transport Office

The following preventive measures have been implemented:

- Transport Office and Garage are all equipped with 'Body Temperature Sensor' and alcohol hand wash. Common areas and toilets are regularly cleaned with 1:99 bleaching solution every day.
- All school buses are cleaned by 1:99 bleaching solution on interior parts (particularly areas in contact with passengers) once every two hours during the course of service. In addition, all school buses are thoroughly cleaned (both internally and externally) once a day before or after service.
- All school buses are treated with 'Nano Photocatalyst' every three-month since commencement of the current academic year. In addition, all school buses are treated internally with UV lamp once a week. Air-conditioning system of school buses are cleaned every two-week.
- All Transport Office staff including drivers are issued with surgical masks everyday while on duty with mandatory use during the course of duty. Besides, all passengers are required to wear surgical masks onboard school buses.
- Seating capacity of school buses have been reduced with two passengers only on three seater and less standing passengers on each bus.

III. Activities Highlights

1. Influenza vaccination

The University provided free influenza vaccination to high-risk groups including full-time staff and students of Faculty of Medicine, outdoor workers of Estates Management Office, staff of Security and Transport Office, hostel workmen and staff of University Health Service. A total of 1,932 doses were given in October and November 2019. Influenza vaccination campaigns were arranged for general staff and students with 582 doses given. Totally 2,514 doses were given.

2. Public health maintenance on campus

a) Bird corpses on campus

Security Office recorded 120 bird corpses on campus between 1 August 2019 and 31 July 2020. The dead birds were collected by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department for testing, and nothing abnormal was detected.

b) Anti-mosquito and Anti-midge Programme

EMO continued to conduct bi-weekly mosquito control treatment during low season (from October 2019 to February 2020), and to enhance this programme to a weekly treatment schedule during high season (from August to September 2019 and from March to July 2020). The cycle of applying fogging treatment at strategical locations has also been advanced by 4 months to cover the period from April to November 2020.

Vegetation near busy area such as school bus-stops were trimmed down for enhancing soil exposure to sunlight which could assist in inhibiting the breed of midges. Regular midges control treatment from March to November has been conducted at planting areas adjacent to areas with busy pedestrian traffic.

There are 62 stations on campus for Ovitrap monitoring. Figures on Aedes larvae were recorded every month and monitoring results would be sent to EMO for follow-up

mosquito eradication actions. From August 2019 to July 2020, a total of 682 samples were processed. Results in 2019-2020 showed similar seasonal trends compared with those last year. During the period, Ovitrap Indices at Level 4 category (>40%) was recorded in May and June 2020.

A new mosquito control measure named In2care mosquito traps have been introduced at three busy locations as a trial. These traps attract and kill blood sucking female mosquitos, and to target both the mosquito larvae and adults. The effectiveness of these traps would be reviewed and assessed.

c) Drinking Fountains

Some Drinking fountains on campus are tested once per year by USO. From August 2019 to July 2020, a total of 162 water quality tests were conducted for drinking fountains on campus for Lead, Copper and Total Coliform. No sample was found to be deviated from the WHO standards.

d) Smoke-free Campus

Security Office recorded 34 persons violated smoking ban on campus, compared with 59 cases in the same period of 2018-19. The smokers were cooperative after given verbal advice to stop smoking.

3. Vaccination programmes

a) HPV Vaccination Campaign

HPV vaccination campaigns were held for students, staff and dependents in January 2020. Exhibition and enquiry sessions were organized to raise awareness of HPV infections. The total number of HPV vaccinations given was 1,608.

b) Hepatitis Awareness Campaign

Hepatitis Awareness campaign with blood checking for serological markers and vaccination was held in September 2019 at UHS. Information on transmission and prevention of hepatitis A & B was provided in the exhibition. 209 people attended the blood checking and 341 doses were given at the campaign. Two Hepatitis B carriers were referred for medical attention.

c) Other Vaccination Campaigns

UHS conducted a Herpes Zoster (HZ) vaccination campaign and Pneumococcal vaccination (PCV) campaign in December 2019 and January 2020 respectively. A total of 15 doses of HZ and 19 doses of PCV were given during the campaign.

4. Special programmes

- a) Because of the early termination of Term 1, 2019-20, followed by the COVID-19 emergency and the shift to online teaching in Term 2, 2019-20, the following programmes were cancelled in the reporting period:

- Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and Automated External Defibrillator (AED) Training
- Campus Health Ambassadors Programme
- Integrating Chinese Medicine into Daily Life
- Walking Campaign

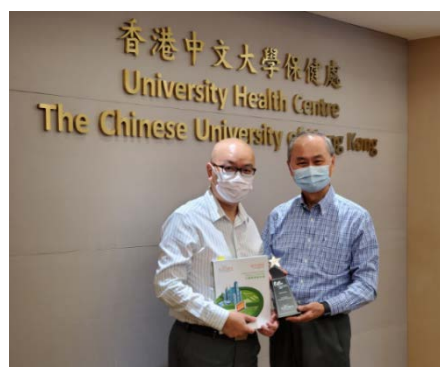
b) “Healthy Campus, Prosperous Life” Luncheon Seminar Series

A list of health seminars was jointly held by UHS and the Training Division of Human Resources Office in 2019-20.

Date	Topic
25 July 2019	鼻敏感及兒童哮喘
15 August 2019	皮膚敏感與腸道基因有關
27 September 2019	您頭痛嗎? 常見的頭痛種類與預防方法
28 October 2019	膝關節問題

5. Hong Kong Smoke-free Leading Company Awards 2019

CUHK received the Silver Award of the Hong Kong Smoke-free Leading Company Awards 2019 in recognition its contributions to support smoke-free culture. The campaign was organized by Hong Kong Council on Smoking and Health to encourage organizations to fulfill social responsibility by promoting smoke-free culture and smoking cessation to their stakeholders.



The University is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment to all students, staff and visitors. The entire university campus, including student hostels, is designated as non-smoking area. The university strives to promote smoke-free campus by displaying anti-smoking posters and signage. The University also provides smoking cessation support and referral services to staff and students who decide to quit smoking. Smoke-free culture starts with promotion of healthy lifestyle. Through various physical and mental health programmes, the university endeavours to raise awareness of health and positive attitude among its members, thus empowering the practice of smoke-free healthy living lifestyle.

IV. Conclusion

CHPP will continue to promote health education and encourage health consciousness. It will monitor for potential emergence of significant infectious diseases in Hong Kong and abroad, and work collaboratively to prepare and implement strategies for the prevention and control of communicable disease in the university community.

November 2020

Communications and Public Relations Office

1. Online Public Talks

With an aim to enhance CUHK's image and attract top prospective students, a series of online public talks and lecture review series have been produced to showcase the vibrant intellectual environment of CUHK. These include:

- 'Class Acts' – CUHK Online Public Talk Series (博文在線)
- 'Stay Strong: Alumni Online Talk Series' (「疫」流而上 — 中大校友自強線上分享系列)
- Revisiting the Nobel Laureates Lecture (諾貝爾學人精選講座重溫)
- Revisiting the Chinese Culture Masters Lectures (鴻儒開講精選重溫)
- Revisiting 'The Pursuit of Wisdom' Public Lecture Series (「智慧的探索」公開講座足本重溫)
- Revisiting the Arts & Culture Elites Lectures (藝文類聚精選重溫)
- STEM Masterclass (STEM 大師班)

2. Videos on Infection Control Measures

A number of short, topical videos have been released to provide latest information to the public on the University's concerted efforts. Some key videos include:

- Prof. David Hui's Health Tips Series:
 - 武漢肺炎篇 (22 Jan)
<https://www.facebook.com/1748969242086378/videos/164603054864087>
 - 新春防疫篇 (23 Jan)
<https://www.facebook.com/1748969242086378/videos/661628117739972>
 - 新型冠狀病毒治療篇 Professor Hui's update on therapy of Novel Coronavirus (12 Feb)
<https://www.facebook.com/CUHKofficial/photos/a.1756940571289245/2487531081563520>
 - 強制家居檢疫篇 Professor Hui's Health Tips on Mandatory Home Quarantine (19 Feb)
<https://www.facebook.com/CUHKofficial/photos/a.1756940571289245/2493828477600447/>
- 防疫話你知：浴室 U 型喉解構 Infection Prevention Tips: U-Shaped Water Traps Block Spread of Virus (4 Feb)
<https://www.facebook.com/CUHKofficial/photos/a.1756940571289245/2480888268894468/>
- [CUHK "Homemade" Alcohol-Based Handrub](#) (中大「自家製」酒精搓手液 – the effort of Prof. Dennis Ng, Department of Chemistry and the University Safety Office to produce alcohol handrub to distribute to students staying in hostels, frontline staff, elderly centres and homes.
- [CUHK in Action](#) (中大·永不停步) – the effort of all units/ department to combat COVID-19 and prepare for online teaching
- [CUHK Online!](#) (準備·在線) – teaching staff and ITSC's preparation for online teaching

- [Users Feedback on Online Teaching](#), (網上教學·用家心聲) – students and teachers’ feedback after first week of online teaching
- [Bleach Making Experiment](#) (鹽水電池自製漂白水) – Department of Chemistry demonstrated how to make bleach under a safe laboratory environment
- ["Homemade" Alcohol-Based Handrub Formulation](#) (自製酒精搓手液·配方) – an animation video shows the steps of preparing the handrub according to the WHO formula
- [Keeping It Clean CUHK Style! \(中大搓手液·一人一分力\)](#)
- 中大這一課 A Class by CUHK 17 Apr
<https://www.facebook.com/CUHKofficial/posts/2544746302508664>
- 中大這一課 - 前傳 A Class by CUHK —The Prequel 20 Apr
<https://www.facebook.com/CUHKofficial/posts/2547218748928086>
- Facebook video 逆境生活態度·歌 Singing in Adversity (16 Jun)
<https://www.facebook.com/1748969242086378/videos/970631426708263>
- Facebook video 逆境生活態度·畫 Drawing in Adversity (22 Jun)
<https://www.facebook.com/CUHKofficial/videos/846735599153734/>
- Facebook video 逆境生活態度·動 Street Workout in Adversity (10 July)
<https://www.facebook.com/1748969242086378/videos/1453454521508778>

3. ‘CUHK in Touch’ quarterly e-newsletter

CPRO launched the ‘CUHK in Touch’ quarterly e-newsletter which disseminates the latest research achievements, campus information and hot topics to international stakeholders.

- March issue 2020 - research findings on stool samples from patients confirmed to have COVID-19 (23 March)
<https://www.facebook.com/CUHKofficial/posts/2521860594797235>
- June issue 2020 - introduces a helpful friend to fight COVID-19 (24 Jun)
<https://www.facebook.com/CUHKofficial/posts/2603736273276333>
- Sept issue 2020 - Liver Disease Another Opening for COVID-19 (17 Sep)
<https://www.facebook.com/CUHKofficial/photos/a.1756940571289245/2677741919209101>