

Press Release (For Immediate Distribution)

**Hong Kong Red Cross “Jockey Club Infection Control Training and
Support Project for High-risk Sectors”
Free Admission to two-day Infection Control Exhibition to
Promote Knowledge of Infection Control**

(Hong Kong, 19 August 2023) The three-year COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the importance of infection control, but related training and support services are still in their infancy. In response, the Hong Kong Red Cross (HKRC) is launching the five-year Jockey Club Infection Control Training and Support Project for High-Risk Sectors (the “Project”) supported by The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust. The Project aims to strengthen awareness and prevention capabilities among high-risk industries so that they are better prepared to combat infectious diseases in future.

The Project launch ceremony was held today at MOSTown, officiated by Dr Libby Lee, Under Secretary for Health, Ms Lily Lee, Deputy Executive Manager, Charities, The Hong Kong Jockey Club, Mr Philip Tsai, Chairperson of the Hong Kong Red Cross and Ms Cheng Yu-ling, Dodo, event ambassador.

Mr Philip Tsai, Chairperson of Hong Kong Red Cross, shared in his welcoming speech, “The three-year pandemic has not only cost many lives but also highlighted that some occupations and industries face higher risks when confronting infectious disease outbreaks, and therefore the Hong Kong Red Cross develops an infection control training and support program targeting key groups in high-risk sectors. With the three core strategies of the project launched today, we are committed to sparing no effort in disseminating the program’s training and assistance to the target service communities, ensuring thorough preparation and prevention for any potential future public health events.”

Dr Libby Lee, Under Secretary for Health also spoke in the ceremony, “I am pleased to learn that the Hong Kong Red Cross and the Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust have jointly launched the Jockey Club Infection Control Training and Support Project for High-risk Sectors to strengthen knowledge of infection control and raise awareness among the workers from the high-risk sectors. Hopefully the Project will enhance their capabilities, both in disease prevention and emergency response against infectious diseases. A concerted effort

forts by the community is essential to build up a preventive barrier against infectious diseases in Hong Kong.”

Ms Lily Lee, Deputy Executive Manager, Charities, The Hong Kong Jockey Club, said that The Hong Kong Jockey Club is committed to promoting the development of a healthy community. Although the COVID-19 epidemic has eased, infectious diseases still threaten our health. Through professional, practical and sustainable infection control training and support services, the Project will help high-risk industries build their long-term capability in responding to infectious diseases and protect the health of Hong Kong citizens.

In addition to the launch ceremony, two-day infection control exhibition also opened, which aims to reinforce public awareness of infection control, encouraging continued vigilance in preparing for and preventing infectious diseases.

About Jockey Club Infection Control Training and Support Project for High-risk Sectors

The Project will last for five years and will mainly target five high-risk industries, including but not limited to social welfare, education, hotel management, property management, and catering. The Project will provide professional training to frontline staff and management in three areas:

1. Infection Control Training

Training for frontline and managerial staff in high-risk industries to master the latest infection control knowledge and skills.

2. Infection Control Consultation and Support Services

Professional infection control recommendations and solutions tailored for high-risk sectors. Consultation and support services will be provided based on the varying needs of different industries, with the aim of helping them implement applicable disease prevention protocols.

3. Infection Control Promotion Campaign

The community to learn about the service units, schools, institutions and organizations that have participated in the training and received support, thereby recognizing the participating organizations for their efforts. This will also enhance community and industry understanding of infection control.

High-Risk Sectors Express Support for the Initiative

The employees of high-risk industries participating in the Project are highly supportive of its objectives. **Mr Kam, Operations Manager of Grace Nursing Care Home**, a representative of the Social Welfare sector, said: "Infection control is vital to nursing homes and the safety of the elderly. We are delighted that the Hong Kong Red Cross has launched tailor-made infection prevention courses for various sectors within the community to promote knowledge and understanding among different levels of society."

Ms Wan, Superintendent of Ho Yam Care and Attention Home for the Elderly shared, "The COVID-19 pandemic has significantly affected the entire elderly care industry. Nursing home workers must remain vigilant at all times to prevent the virus from impacting more frail elderly individuals. As such, bolstering on-site infection control and raising staff knowledge in nursing homes is especially important."

Representing the education sector, **Ms Ip Miu Ngan, Principal of St. Teresa Secondary School** shared, "During the pandemic, schools had to implement different infection control measures to ensure a hygienic campus environment. Besides COVID-19, other infectious diseases like upper respiratory infections and chickenpox also impact school operations. Therefore, we hope to acquire proper preventive knowledge through the Project to address transmissible illnesses, helping schools have adequate responsiveness during disease outbreaks. **Ms Fung of Enso Japanese Restaurant** commented, "The coronavirus was very challenging as it reshaped customer behaviours. This new Project equips industry professionals through training. By boosting public health knowledge, staff can feel more secure serving customers."

The interactive and creative learning experience in four exhibition zones of a two-day infection control exhibition

The exhibition will be open from 11am to 8pm on August 20 at Atrium, Level 2, MOSTown Phase 4, Ma On Shan. The HKRC has invited Mr Wong Yuk-sing, animator of ETV's renowned "King of Germs", to create six new infectious diseases characters for the Project, including Melioidosis, Cholera, Tuberculosis, Avian Flu, SARS and COVID-19. Visitors to the exhibition will meet these new characters and learn about infectious diseases and control in a fun and engaging way.

There are four exhibition zones, including an immersive VR experience zone for visitors to practise epidemic prevention in a simulated home environment where they can identify potential bacterial hazards and learn infection prevention tips. In another zone, exhibition p

panels will outline the various infectious disease outbreaks Hong Kong has endured over the past century, from Cholera and SARS to the recent COVID-19 pandemic. The exhibition will also display the “ultimate defense” - N95 masks - with demonstrations of their ability to prevent infections.

In addition, a “Germ Battle” game will test visitors' knowledge of infection control. Those who successfully eliminate viruses can win limited-edition towel sets featuring Mr Wong's illustrations. They can also take part in a DIY workshop to unleash their creativity and design their own pouches to take home.

Photo Captions

1. Dr Libby Lee, Under Secretary for Health, Ms Lily Lee, Deputy Executive Manager, Charities, The Hong Kong Jockey Club, Mr Philip Tsai, Chairperson of Hong Kong Red Cross and Ms Dodo Cheng, event ambassador, hosted the launch ceremony of the Jockey Club Infection Control Training and Support Project for High-risk Sectors as the guests of honor.
2. Mr Philip Tsai, Chairperson of the Hong Kong Red Cross, explained that some occupations and industries face higher risks when confronting infectious disease outbreaks. This led the Hong Kong Red Cross to develop an infection control training and support program targeting key groups in high-risk sectors.
3. Dr Libby Lee, Under Secretary for Health explained that a concerted effort by the community is essential to build up a preventive barrier against infectious diseases in Hong Kong.
4. Ms Lily Lee, Deputy Executive Manager, Charities, The Hong Kong Jockey Club, said that the Project will help high-risk industries respond to the threat of infectious diseases over the long term and will protect the health of Hong Kong citizens.
5. The HKRC invited Mr Wong Yuk-sing, animator of ETV's renowned “King of Germs” , to create six new infectious disease characters for the Project to help the community learn about infectious diseases and control in a fun and engaging way.
- 6-7. Four exhibition zones of the two-day infection control exhibition aim to reinforce public awareness about infection control.
- 8-9. The public actively participated in the “Germ Battle” game and DIY workshop, bringing their own pouches home.

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About the Hong Kong Red Cross

Established in 1950, the Hong Kong Red Cross is part of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and the world's humanitarian network serving over 190 countries. We dedicate ourselves to motivating people from all walks of life to put humanitarian spirit into action. With services in four main areas, namely, "Emergency Relief and Disaster Preparedness" , "Community Health Service and Education" , "Humanitarian Engagement and Education" , and "Special Education and Rehabilitation" , we provide a diversified humanitarian platform for Hong Kong citizens. For details, please visit <https://www.redcross.org.hk/en/>

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