

## **“HKU Nursing Health Ambassador Program” in Primary Schools (HKUNHAP-PS)**

The HKU Nursing Health Ambassador Program to Primary Schools was initiated by the Department of Nursing Studies, the University of Hong Kong in response to the healthcare needs of primary school students at the time of school resumption in May, 2003.

Primary schools resumed class on May 19, 2003. In order to strengthen the message of SARS prevention to the public and relieve the anxiety of the parents, Hong Kong Education and Manpower Bureau has set up some policies for the schools and parents, such as wearing a mask on a compulsory basis, hand washing and checking temperature every day before they send their children to go to schools.



It is very important that teachers and students take proper precautions to prevent the spread of SARS in schools. We, as one of the local leading academic institution in Nursing, with the mission of health promotion, felt compelled to reinforce the message of the basic preventive measures against SARS. A health promotion program of basic preventive measures was voluntarily planned and implemented in 17 primary schools by our Year Two to Year Four Bachelor of Nursing (FT) Undergraduate Program nursing students with our clinical instructors. The items for reinforcement and demonstration included the following:

- a. Proper wearing and disposal of masks
- b. Correct choice of masks
- c. Proper hand washing techniques
- d. Proper body temperature measurement
- e. Fever contingency plan



The HKU Nursing Health Ambassador Program was launched over a period of three days from May 19 to 21, 2003 with great success in 17 primary schools. These were in the following districts:

1. Hong Kong East
2. Kowloon East
3. Yau Ma Tei, Tsim Sha Tsui & Mong Kok
4. Sham Shui Po
5. Kwun Tong
6. New Territories North

Clinical instructors from the Department of Nursing Studies, and 67 students from our Bachelor of Nursing (FT) Undergraduate Program have participated in this HKUNHAP-PS. We delivered health seminars to those primary schools in halls, classrooms, outdoor playgrounds as well as live broadcasts via internal television networks to all classrooms within the schools. Over 117 seminars were held, reaching out to more than 6,500 students and their teachers. The response was overwhelming and the feedback received

from all schools was encouraging and positive. The program has attracted press interviews by ATV news as well as some newspapers. All schools acknowledged that this program helped reinforce their understanding of SARS preventive measures. The feedback from the primary schools' principals and teachers was very satisfactory. The principals warmly welcome any forthcoming collaboration in other health education programs.



The HKU Nursing Health Ambassador Program not only benefited the primary school students, but also the nursing students in our department. We are delighted to share this experience with them and welcome their recommendations in order to enhance the program further. One of the missions of the Department of Nursing Studies is to advance nursing and health care through service to the local, regional and international community. We will continue to carry out this mission and at the same time extend our work with the University's sense of social responsibility as stated by the Vice-Chancellor.

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