

Expert Panel on HIV Infection of Healthcare Workers

Department of Health

Chairman : Dr LAI Sik-to, Thomas

Secretary : Consultant (Special Preventive Programme)
Department of Health

Members: Dr LEE Cheuk-kwong, MH

Dr LUK Hung-to

Mr TONG Tak-fai, Edmond

Dr TSANG Ho-fai, Thomas, BBS

Dr WAN Yuen-kong, JP

Dr WONG Han, Ann

Our Ref. : () in DH ACA/100/3 (2024-2026)

13 January 2025

Mr Philip TSAI Wing-chung, BBS, JP
The Chairman
The Supplementary Medical Professions Council
Boards and Councils Office,
2/F, Shun Feng International Centre,
182 Queen's Road East,
Wan Chai, Hong Kong

Dear Mr TSAI,

Expert Panel on HIV Infection of Healthcare Workers

The Expert Panel on HIV Infection of Healthcare Workers (Panel) was formed in 1994 by the Department of Health in accordance with the recommendations of the Hong Kong Advisory Council on AIDS (ACA), with the primary function of assessing and advising on the need of job modification of healthcare worker with HIV and lookback investigation. The attending doctor of the healthcare worker with HIV is required to make anonymous referral to the Panel, which will then be examined on a case-by-case basis with all information treated in strict confidence. The recommendations will be conveyed to the attending doctor and respective professional body, if any.

As of 31 December 2024, there was no referral to the Panel belonging to the supplementary medical profession in 2024.

The Panel considers it necessary to keep healthcare professional bodies and workers abreast of the subject of HIV infection and healthcare workers from time to time, and would like to stress herewith three points: (a) the importance of adherence to standard infection control practices to minimise transmission of blood-borne pathogens including HIV in the healthcare setting; (b) the need for the attending doctor (medical or dental profession in particular) to refer healthcare worker with HIV anonymously to the Panel for assessment; and (c) the healthcare workers' duty of care to patients and the need to seek HIV testing, care and treatment as appropriate if they have reason to suspect that they are infected with HIV or at risk of HIV infection.

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Further information can be accessed via our webpage –

English version : <https://www.aids.gov.hk/english/hcw.html>; and

Chinese version : <https://www.aids.gov.hk/chinese/hcw.html>.

Two local recommendations are of relevance to this aspect. They are the “*HIV infection and healthcare workers - Recommended Guidelines*” by the ACA (October 2015) (accessible at <https://www.aca.gov.hk/publication/278.pdf>) and the “*Recommendations on HIV testing in Hong Kong*” by the Scientific Committee on AIDS and STI. (November 2024) (accessible at https://www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/recommendations_on_hiv_testing_in_hk_nov_2024.pdf).

I shall be grateful for your assistance to disseminate the messages to members of your profession, and to contact the Panel when the need arises. As always, the Panel maintains confidentiality of the information. Should you have any question, please do not hesitate to contact the Panel Secretary, Dr Bonnie WONG, at telephone: 3143 7289.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lai Sik-to', with a horizontal line underneath it.

(Dr LAI Sik-to, Thomas)

Chairman

Expert Panel on HIV Infection of Healthcare Workers