

# Letters to the Editor

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## **Hong Kong's response**

Building on the experience of handling SARS in 2003, Hong Kong responded swiftly to implement a comprehensive approach to contain the spread of COVID-19.

All schools have been closed. Telecommuting and flexible work arrangements have been adopted. All recreational and sports facilities are closed. Catering premises limit customers to half of seating capacity and customers have to wear masks, except when eating and drinking.

Body temperature is screened at entrances and hand sanitizers are provided. Gatherings of more than four people in public places are prohibited.

Hong Kong actively conducts contact-tracing of all cases and testing and quarantine as necessary. Details of all cases (without personal data) are made public. From the very beginning, we advised the community to wear masks in public areas.

All inbound travelers are quarantined for 14 days. Locally developed smart bracelets are used for some under home quarantine. Travelers arriving by flight are tested for COVID-19. Non-residents by flight are denied entry.

As of April 13, there are 1,005 confirmed cases. The recent spike was mainly due to inbound travelers. For an international city with a population of 7.4 million, the incidence is considered low.

Hong Kong will continue to face the challenge in an open and transparent manner.

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