

# OVERVIEW OF “COMMUNICABLE DISEASES OF COMMUNITY IMPORTANCE” SKILLS COURSE

A/Prof Goh Lee Gan

SFP2008; 34(2)Supplement: 8-9

## INTRODUCTION

The focus of this skills course is on communicable diseases of community importance and is sponsored by the Health Promotion Board. Being up-to-date on the information on these diseases is part of our total defence against them. Communicable diseases are today a more serious global problem than in the past because: urban populations are growing, thereby increasing opportunities for person-to-person transmittal of these diseases; people are more prone to be in contact with animals that may pass on zoonotic diseases; and public health services may not be equipped to deal with some of these infectious outbreaks. WHO's efforts to get the world prepared in case the next pandemic influenza is to descend on mankind is an attempt to deal with the latter. Do consider signing up for this course. Come and be updated.

## COURSE OUTLINE AND CME POINTS

This skills course is made up of the following components. You can choose to participate in one or more parts of it. The CME points that will be awarded are also indicated below.

### Components and CME Points

- κ Distance Learning Course – 6 units (1 CME point per unit)
- κ 2 Seminars (2 CME points per seminar)
- κ 2 Workshops (2 CME points per workshop / attend only 1 workshop)
- κ Reading papers on COMMUNICABLE DISEASES – read 5 out of 10 recommended journals (max. of 5 CME points for the whole CME year)

### Distance Learning Course

Unit 1 Communicable Diseases of Community Importance – An epidemiological overview  
**Dr Angela Chow**

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GOH LEE GAN, Associate Professor, Department of Community, Occupational and Family Medicine, Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine, National University of Singapore  
Senior Consultant, Institute of Family Medicine, College of Family Physicians Singapore

Unit 2 Outbreak Surveillance and Response – What you need to know

**A/Prof Ooi Peng Lim**

Unit 3 Current Status of Preparedness in Singapore for an Influenza Pandemic

**Dr Jeffery Cutter**

Unit 4 Dengue Epidemiology, Prevention and Control in Singapore

**A/Prof Ooi Eng Eong**

Unit 5 Travel Diseases of Public Health Importance

**A/Prof Paul Ananth Tambyah**

Unit 6 Hepatitis B Infection and Its Complications

**Dr Richard Guan**

## COURSE TOPIC DETAILS

Unit 1 : Communicable Diseases of Community Importance – An epidemiological overview

- κ Vector-borne Diseases
- κ Air-/Droplet-borne Diseases
- κ Food-borne Diseases

Unit 2 : Outbreak Surveillance and Response – What you need to know

- κ What Exactly is an Outbreak?
- κ Uncovering Outbreaks Through Surveillance
- κ Steps in Outbreak Response
- κ Importance of Risk Communications

Unit 3 : Current Status of Preparedness in Singapore for an Influenza Pandemic

- κ Influenza Pandemic Preparedness in Singapore
- κ Healthcare Services
- κ Other Essential Services
- κ Private Economic Sector
- κ Vaccines, Anti-virals and Other Medical Supplies
- κ Social Distancing Measures
- κ Domestic Preparedness

Unit 4 : Dengue Epidemiology, Prevention and Control in Singapore

- κ Vector Control in Singapore
- κ Lowered Herd Immunity
- κ Transmission Outside of the Home
- κ Dengue in Adults
- κ Recent Advances of Clinical Application

### Unit 5 : Travel Diseases of Public Health Importance

- κ Key infections in the World
- κ Key infections in Asia
  - ο Vector-borne infections
  - ο Food- and water borne infections (e.g. Hep A, Campylobacter infection, typhoid)
  - ο Zoonotic infections (e.g. rabies, HPAI (H5N1)).
  - ο Soil and water associated infections (e.g. Melioidosis)

### Unit 6 : Hepatitis B Infection and Its Complications

- κ The Virus
- κ Modes of Transmission
- κ The Disease
- κ Diagnosis
- κ Natural Course of Chronic HBV Infections
- κ Complications of Chronic HBV Infection
- κ Management
- κ Prevention

## FACE-TO-FACE SESSIONS

### Seminar 1: 24 May 2008

2.00pm – 4.15pm

Unit 1 Communicable Diseases of Community Importance – An epidemiological overview

**Dr Angela Chow**

Unit 2 Outbreak Surveillance and Response – What you need to know

**A/Prof Ooi Peng Lim**

Unit 3 Current Status of Preparedness in Singapore for an Influenza Pandemic

**Dr Jeffery Cutter**

### Workshop 1: 24 May 2008

4.30pm – 6.45pm

Group A:

Case studies in communicable disease control

Flu preparedness: Primary Care Framework

Group B:

Hepatitis-B infection and complication:

- immunisation
- carrier follow-up
- use of publicity resources

### Seminar 1: 25 May 2008

2.00pm – 4.15pm

Unit 4 Dengue Epidemiology, Prevention and Control in Singapore

**A/Prof Ooi Eng Eong**

Unit 5 Travel Diseases of Public Health Importance

**A/Prof Paul Ananth Tambyah**

Unit 6 Hepatitis B Infection and Its Complications

**Dr Richard Guan**

### Workshop 1: 25 May 2008

4.30pm – 6.45pm

Group A:

Case studies in communicable disease control

Flu preparedness: Primary Care Framework

Group B:

Hepatitis-B infection and complication:

- immunisation
- carrier follow-up
- use of publicity resources