



香港家庭醫學學院 The Hong Kong College of Family Physicians

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Press release
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Hong Kong College of Family Physicians announces the findings of a survey on how the COVID-19 outbreak affects her members.

87% of the respondents' clinical practice was affected by the COVID-19 outbreak. HKCFP appeals to the Government to strengthen public-private partnership to combat the epidemic.

Family doctors in the community are experiencing new challenges from the outbreak of the new COVID-19 infection. The Hong Kong College of Family Physicians conducted an online survey 31/1/2020 among its doctor members to identify the preparedness of family doctors in providing clinical care during this critical period.

Of the 491 (30.9% response rate) family doctors who completed the online survey, 246 (50.1%) doctors worked at public primary clinics, 242 (49.3%) doctors worked in the private sector while 3 (0.6%) worked in both sectors. The vast majority of the surveyed family doctors continued to provide regular primary care services to the public although many (428, 87.2%) reported that their clinical practice had been affected by the COVID-19 outbreak. Half of the doctors reduced non-acute consultation services and/or consultation time. Six (2.5%) private doctors needed to close their practices. As of 4 February 2020, over 140 patients with suspected COVID-19 infection had been encountered by 70 (14 %) family doctors who responded to the survey; 1 patient presented to a public family doctor surveyed was subsequently confirmed to be infected.

Main concerns of the surveyed family doctors included difficulties in securing personal protective equipment (PPE), lack of rapid diagnostic test, training demands on COVID-19, the need to enhance co-ordination of the roles and responsibilities between public and private family doctors and more effective public health policy to contain the outbreak. Many requested setting up designated clinics.

From this survey, it appears that most family doctors are taking heightened infection control measures in clinic setting. There is a large proportion of family doctors in private practice experiencing a shortage of protective gears including face masks and PPE although seeing patients suspected to be infected with the COVID-19 is not uncommon.

In summary,

1. Within 10 days since the first confirmed COVID-19 case in Hong Kong, over 140 patients with suspected COVID-19 presented to 70 family doctors participating in this survey, and one patient was confirmed to have the



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- infection. (i.e. family doctors are the very first point of professional contact of COVID-19 patients)
2. Most doctors responded to the outbreak with heightened infection control practices (masks, wash hands, disinfect, measure staff and patient temperature, install air purifier), but lack of PPE supplies had been a big problem and there remained concerns on whether these measures were adequate to protect the doctor, staff and other patients.
 3. Most respondents, particularly those working in private settings, voiced out the need for more support / guidance on infection control measures/equipment, clinical management / referral channel via designated clinics, availability of diagnostic test and timely updates on outbreak situation.
 4. It would be crucial to have better coordination between public and private sectors to include private family doctors in the combat against COVID-19 infection as part of the overall health system strategy and emergency response since 70% of primary care consultations take place in the private sector in Hong Kong.

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新聞稿

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香港家庭醫學學院公佈冠狀病毒病疫情對會員影響的問卷調查結果 87%受訪家庭醫生臨床服務受疫情影響 要求政府加強公私營合作以對抗疫情

冠狀病毒病（COVID-19）疫情持續爆發，社區家庭醫生正面對各種新挑戰。香港家庭醫學學院在今年1月31日向醫生會員作網上問卷調查，了解家庭醫生在此嚴峻時期提供臨床服務的情況。

今次問卷調查獲 491 位家庭醫生會員回覆，回覆率為 30.9%。當中 246 位（50.1%）在公營基層醫療診所工作、242 位（49.3%）在私家診所工作、3 位（0.6%）同時在公營及私營機構服務。結果顯示，雖然近 9 成醫生（428 位、87.2%）指臨床服務已經受到冠狀病毒病疫情爆發影響，但大部分受訪家庭醫生繼續為公眾提供日常基層醫療服務。其中，一半受訪醫生減少非緊急診症服務和／或診症時間，有 6 位私家醫生（2.5%）需要關閉其診所。截至今年 2 月 4 日，超過 140 名懷疑感染冠狀病毒病的病人，曾向 70 位（14%）回覆問卷的家庭醫生求診，當中有 1 名由公營家庭醫生負責的病人確診。

受訪家庭醫生反映的主要憂慮，包括在獲得個人防護裝備（PPE）遇上困難、缺乏快速診斷測試、應對新冠肺炎的培訓需求、增加公營和私家醫生的互相協調的需要，以及認為有需要訂立更有效遏制疫情的公共衛生政策。當中，有多位受訪者要求政府設立指定診所。

調查結果顯示，大多數提供基層醫療服務的家庭醫生在其診所採取更嚴謹的感染控制措施。家庭醫生遇到懷疑受冠狀病毒病感染病人個案並不罕見，但大部分私家家庭醫生卻要在個人防護裝備，包括口罩及保護衣緊絀的情況下診症。

調查結果撮要：

1. 自從本港確診首宗病例的 10 天內，70 位受訪醫生曾遇到超過 140 名懷疑感染的患者，其中 1 人被確診，即家庭醫生是受冠狀病毒病感染病人的第一個專業接觸點。
2. 大部份受訪醫生已經強化感染控制措施以應對疫情，包括配戴口罩、洗手、消毒、為醫護人員和患者量度體溫及安裝空氣淨化器等。然而，個人防護裝備（PPE）供應不足仍是一個嚴重的問題。受訪醫生仍擔憂以上措施是否已足夠保護診所內的醫生、員工和其他患者。



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3. 大部份受訪者，特別是私家診所醫生指出，他們需要在感染控制措施及設備、懷疑個案臨床管理、指定診所轉介安排、獲得確診測試和即時疫情資訊方面，得到更多的支援及指引。
4. 私家醫生是香港整體公共衛生系統策略和緊急應變的重要持份者，現時香港 70% 基層醫療服務由私營診所提供。私家家庭醫生的參與，以及加強公、私營機構協調，在對抗冠狀病毒病（COVID-19）疫情上至為關鍵。

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