



**HKU
Med**

LKS Faculty of Medicine
School of Public Health
香港大學公共衛生學院



The University of Hong Kong
Fight COVID-19

Combating COVID-19 through Knowledge Exchange

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24 June, 2020

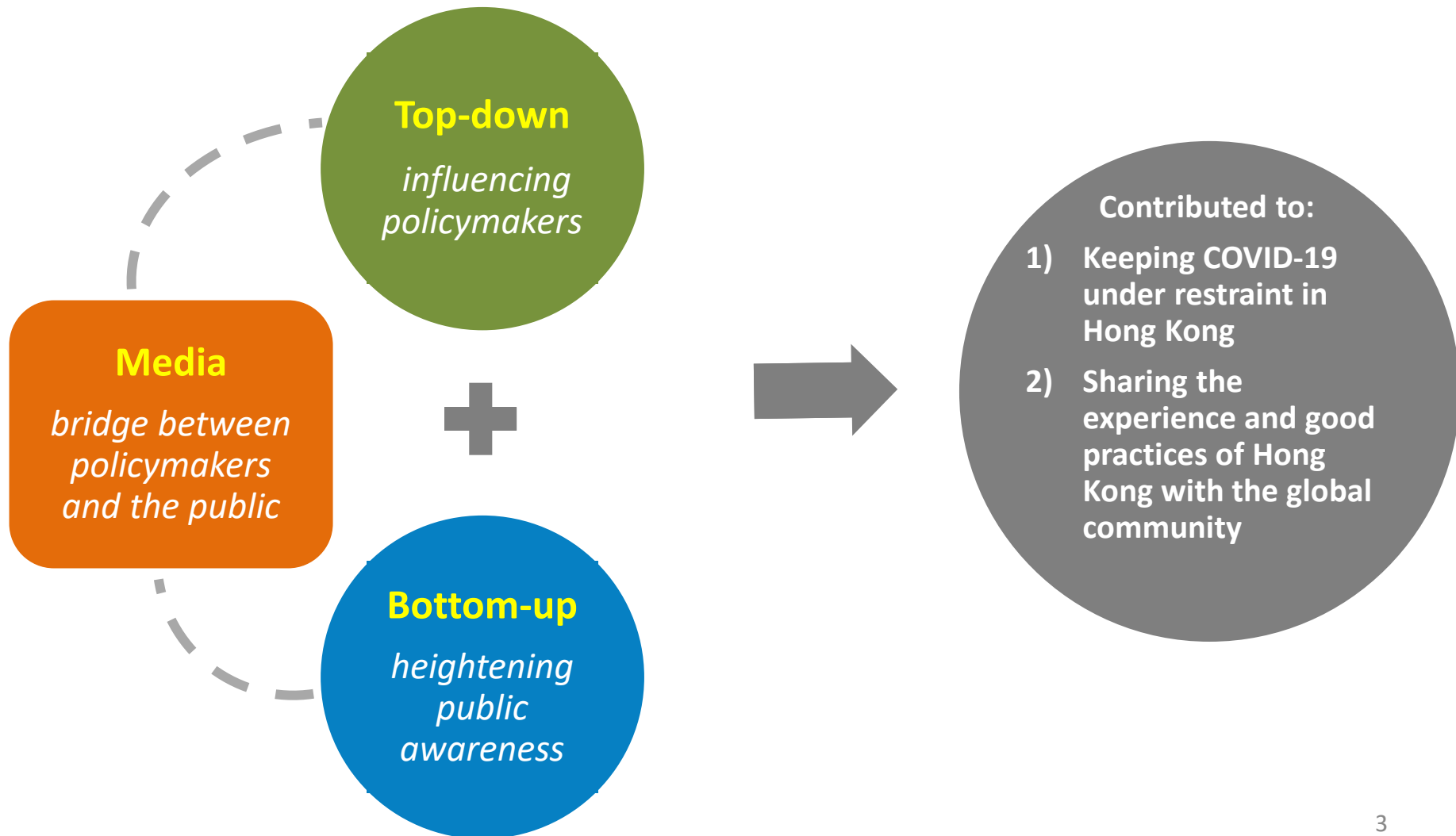
Summary of the Impact

Since the COVID-19 outbreak, we have been working tirelessly to share and transfer knowledge based on evidence-based scientific findings from us and others, and have achieved significant impacts in the following areas:

- I. Policy guidance**
- II. Local and international media outreach**
- III. Public awareness**

Summary of the Impact

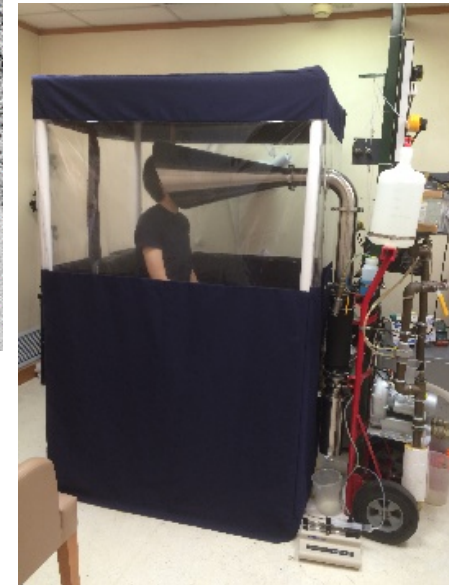
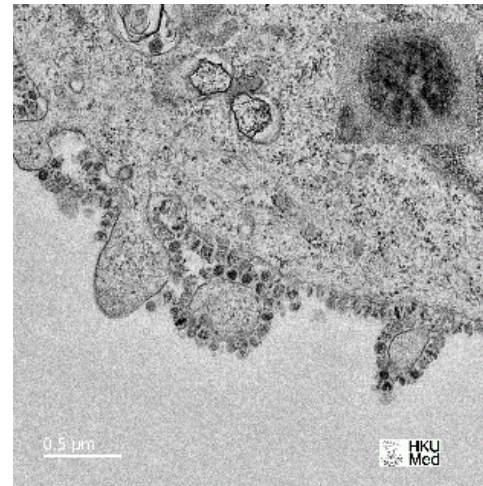
KE in two-pronged approaches



Underpinning Research

We have been exploring the science of the virus, its detection, epidemiology, prevention and health policy interventions since the outbreak. The research findings provided solid ground for policy decisions, media reporting and public education. Our KE activities are based on findings with the following foci:

1. Diagnostics
2. Vaccine development
3. Pathogenesis and immunity to SARS-CoV-2
4. Epidemiology (disease severity, transmission dynamics, public health impact and optimal control measures)
5. Secondary effects of COVID-19 (gendered effects, psycho-behavioural responses, community intervention assessments)



Engagement Process

We engage with the government, industry, media and the public through the following means:

1. Our scientific publications caught public attention
2. Providing advice in the expert advisory group of the HKSAR Government
3. Sharing knowledge in seminars, webinars and private consultations
4. Press conferences, press releases and media interviews
5. Organising KE workshops and webinars
6. Active KE online communications (websites, live dialogues, videos, Q&As)

Impacts Achieved

A. Policy Guidance

I. Serving the expert advisory group of the HKSAR Government

- Two out of four of the appointed experts are members of our School
- Contributed to pandemic policy formation in Hong Kong



林鄭點名 讚四專家顧問

新型肺炎港九新界都有，導致人心惶惶，社會經常質疑林鄭月娥的防疫措施。特首林鄭月娥昨日表示，香港防疫工作是以科學和理據為本，提到現時只有九十五宗總確診數字，措施仍然有效。林鄭月娥舉例指，香港城市密度高，人口稠密，但確診數字比南韓的三千五百宗、日本的二百三十九宗及新加坡的一百零二宗為低，同時遠低於意大利的一千一百宗和伊朗的五百九十三宗。

她又點名讚揚，能取得成果是前綫醫護、防疫人員，以及港大醫學院院長梁卓偉、港大醫學院微生物學講座教授袁國勇、前世衛助理總幹事福田敬二和中大內科及藥物治療學系主任許樹昌四人對港府如何抗疫出謀獻策，又常接受傳媒訪問，分析本地疫情和呼籲市民做好防疫措施。

林鄭月娥又指，未來一個月港府將專注如何分批接回滯留湖北省的港人，以及準備他們返港後十四天隔離工作，之後數日將向公眾交代進程。

Impacts Achieved

A. Policy Guidance

II. Seminars, webinars and private consultations for business corporations and professional bodies

- Contributed to business and strategic decision-making in industries



Impacts Achieved

B. Local and International Media Outreach

I. Media interviews

Provided simplified understandings of disease epidemiology; and prompt, accurate information through media soundbites

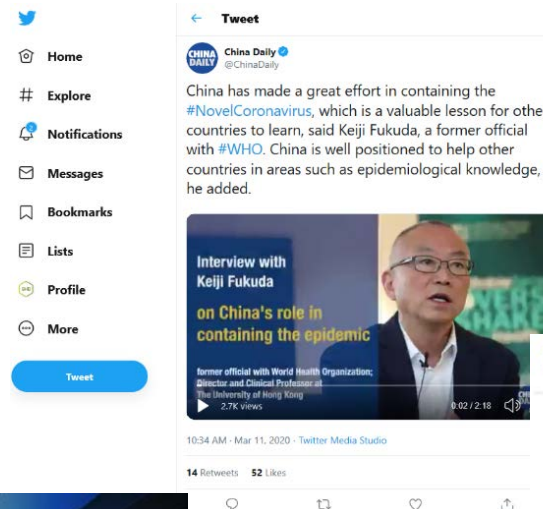
Contributed to raising public awareness



Impacts Achieved

B. Local and International Media Outreach

I. Media interviews (Cont'd)



Serological testing refers to blood tests that look for antibodies to the virus, which usually develop three to four weeks after infection.

Unlike the polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test currently used to identify infected cases, serological

Impacts Achieved

B. Local and International Media Outreach

II. Workshop for journalists

Acquired journalists with health literacy and knowledge in infectious diseases

Journalists to deliver quality, accurate COVID-19 news to the public

Influence risk perception and discern rumours

Contributed to raising health awareness in the public

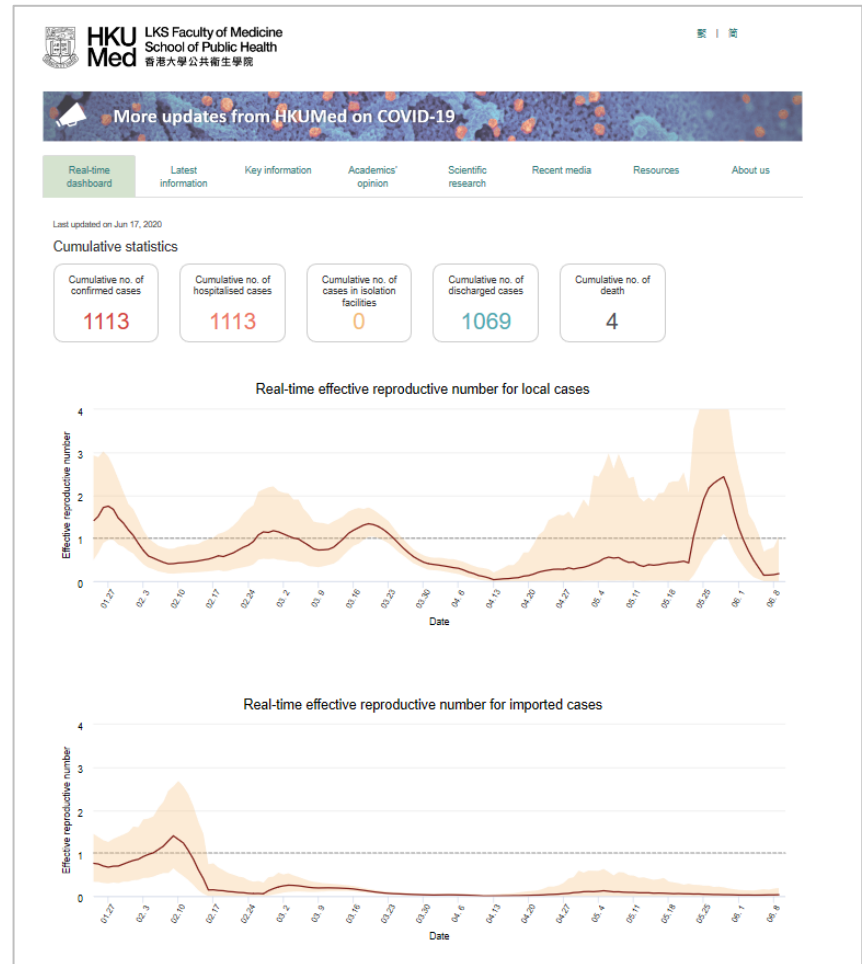


Impacts Achieved

C. Public Awareness

I. COVID-19 webpage

- A platform to share the latest scientific findings and the implications for evidence-based public health policies on COVID-19



Impacts Achieved

C. Public Awareness

II. “Voices from the COVID-19 Frontlines” video series

- Featured stories of our scientists, educator and health economist
- Publicised and featured on:
 - YouTube
 - HKU U-Vision
 - HKU bulk email
 - Social media

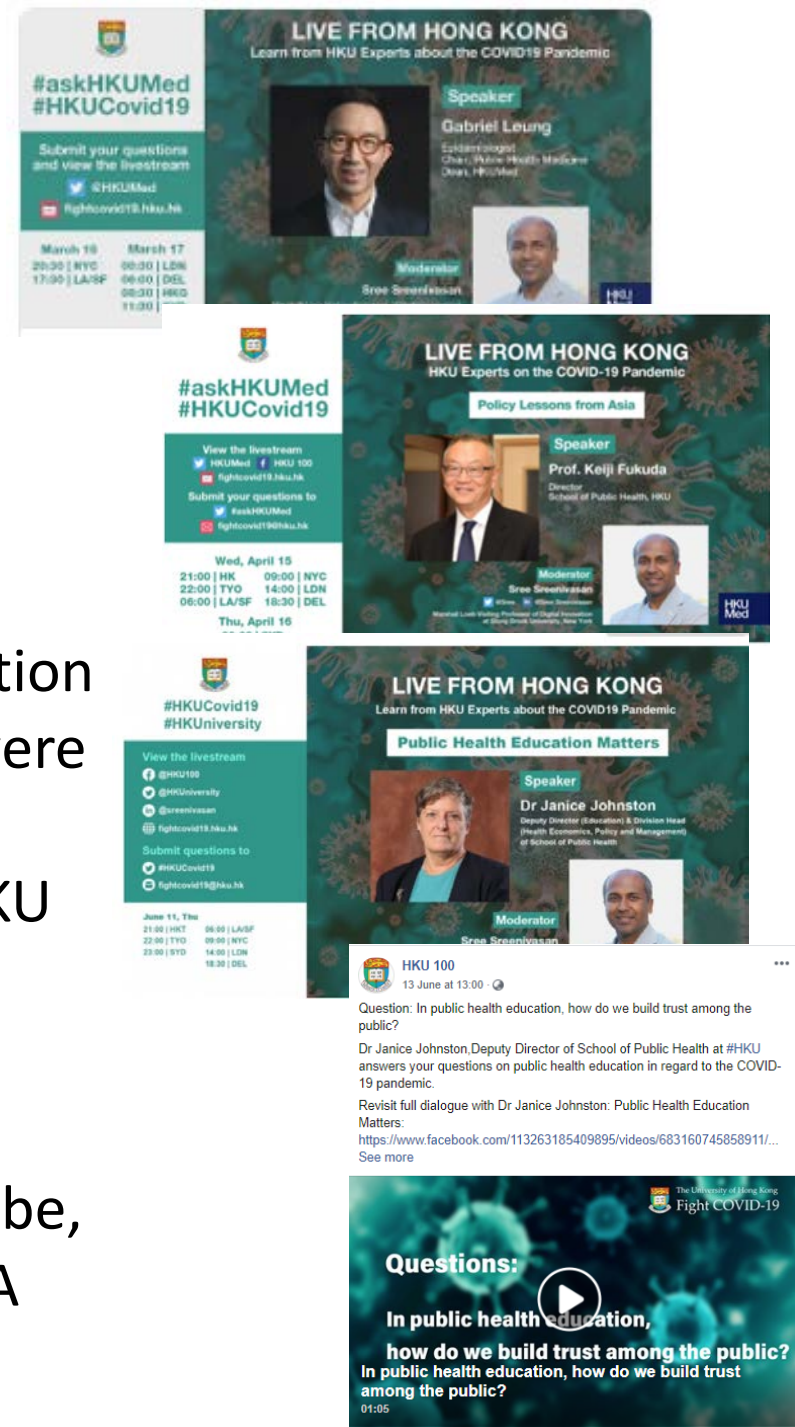


Impacts Achieved

C. Public Awareness

III. Live dialogues series

- Experts of our School sharing their insights into public health policies, health diplomacy and health education
- Open to the public and questions were taken from around the world
- Publicised extensively within the HKU community and international community
- Live stream on various social media platform including Facebook, YouTube, LinkedIn and Twitter, and short Q&A videos were created

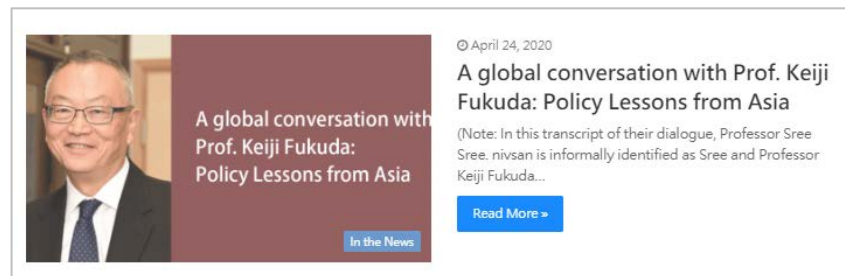


Impacts Achieved

C. Public Awareness

III. Live dialogues series (cont')

- English transcripts were published for international community.
- Live shows were further picked up by local media and translated into Chinese transcript to create impact beyond the English-speaking world.




Impacts Achieved


C. Public Awareness

IV. #askHKUMed

- Experts from our School answering questions submitted by the public about the COVID-19 pandemic
- Sharing right information from a reliable source and exploring myths about the coronavirus

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Menu



22 April 2020
Dr Karen GRÉPIN
Associate Professor
Division of Health Economics, Policy and Management
School of Public Health

+ Actionable advice for China, US and the Philippines?

+ Best practices from scientists and governments?


+ How do outbreaks affect women or men? Any difference between the genders?

+ How is health care affected during COVID-19?


+ How will COVID-19 affect health care? How much will this cost?

+ How will COVID-19 affect the way governments run universal health care?

+ How will people in Africa sustain a living during lockdowns?

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Menu



01 April 2020
Professor Benjamin COWLING
Head of Division of Epidemiology and Biostatistics
School of Public Health

+ Any idea when we can go outside freely?

+ Are masks an effective source control for coronaviruses?

+ Comments on the control measures by China, Taiwan, and other countries?

+ Is mask effective in preventing the novel coronavirus?

+ What advice do you have on keeping the elderly safe?

+ What are the various stakeholders in the quest to end the spread?

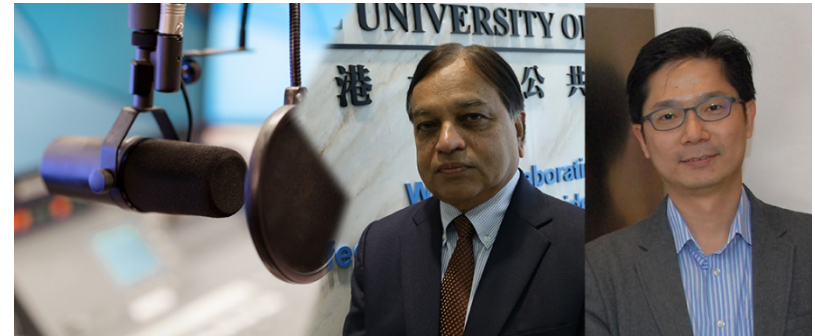
+ What is the difference between R_t and the real-time transmission?

Impacts Achieved

C. Public Awareness

V. Podcast series

- Weekly podcast with experts of our School sharing their insights on virology, vaccine, gender and public health etc.
- Publicised extensively within the HKU community and beyond



Impacts Achieved

C. Public Awareness

VI. Research highlights

- Summary and highlights of research were created to help the public grab the key ideas of research papers easily
- Consolidated the research-related media coverage for easier reference
- Further publicised key messages of research papers on social media to extend the impact in the community



Highlights:

- The virus is highly stable at 4°C, but sensitive to heat.
- No infectious virus could be recovered from printing and tissue papers after a 3-hour incubation, whereas no infectious virus could be detected from treated wood and cloth on day 2.
- SARS-CoV-2 was more stable on smooth surfaces. No infectious virus could be detected from treated smooth surfaces on day 4 (glass and banknote) or day 7 (stainless steel and plastic).
- A detectable level of infectious virus could still be present on the outer layer of a surgical mask on day 7.
- No infectious virus could be detected after a 5-min incubation with hand soap at room temperature.
- SARS-CoV-2 can be highly stable in a favourable environment, but it is also susceptible to standard disinfection methods.


Read full text

Related media coverage:

- South China Morning Post: Coronavirus can stay on face masks for up to a week, study finds
- 星島日報: 取快遞不洗手被感染新冠? 專家: 或本是無症狀感染者
- 今日新聞: 新冠肺炎病毒能在「口罩外層」活7天! 專家教防疫小細節
- Yahoo! 新聞: 最新研究: 病毒這狀態竟能活7天! 想重複用口罩僅2招可行
- ETtoday: 宅在家2個月「取快遞感染」 陸專家: 不排除是無感染症狀者

Impacts Achieved

C. Public Awareness



The public awareness campaign raised health literacy and risk perception in the public

Strong awareness of personal hygiene and high level of compliance with public health measures

Contributed to keeping the number of infected cases low in Hong Kong

Summary: Impacts Achieved

