

Survey: Hong Kong's non-locally trained doctors on the impact of the coronavirus outbreak

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HONG KONG — Eight in 10 doctors in Hong Kong (80 percent) agree or strongly agree that the coronavirus outbreak has impacted their work in clinical practice, according to a new survey of non-locally trained doctors in Hong Kong released today by the Medical Licentiate Society of Hong Kong (Licentiate Society). The survey results further bolster a growing concern across the entire health care field that practitioners need more support during this challenging epidemic.

“Overall Hong Kong has excellent health care, but the current outbreak has put the existing system under intense strain, said Dr. Marcus Marcet, president of the society. “Normally at this time of the year, the winter surge and manpower shortages are the usual issues, but currently the most common concerns are supplies of personal protective equipment and control of the situation.”

According to the Licentiate Society survey, which examined the experiences of 230 non-locally trained doctors, nearly seven in 10 (68 percent) report feeling stress of they themselves becoming infected—the leading reason the coronavirus outbreak has affected the doctors’ work. “With the spread of the 2019-nCoV now likely to become a pandemic, this will certainly overwhelm the health care system in Hong Kong,” said Dr. Raymond Tso, a Specialist in Respiratory Medicine and Licentiate Society council member.

The longstanding efforts to ease the already overburdened system have included recruitment of overseas doctors to Hong Kong. Over half of the survey respondents themselves were graduates of European medical schools and one fifth were from Mainland schools, the next most common group. Nearly two-thirds worked in the Hong Kong’s public medical sector, 15% were in private practice, and 17% were candidates for the Hong Kong Medical Licensing Examination.

The approach to the outbreak can have consequences not only for Hong Kong’s public, but also for the health care system itself. Over half of the doctors (53 percent) said the coronavirus outbreak changed their view of the health care system in Hong Kong to worse or much worse; and nearly two-thirds (64 percent) of this group of licensed non-locally trained doctors agreed or strongly agreed the outbreak makes it more difficult to attract more non-locally trained doctors to Hong Kong.

The findings show that over four in five doctors (84 percent) rated the response from the authorities in Hong Kong in addressing the outbreak as fair or poor. In addition, a majority of respondents (60 percent) said there were no workplace arrangements associated with the new outbreak.

“Indeed, not surprised personal stress shot through the roof, as it clearly links to scarce medical supply and delay in shutting down the border,” said Dr. Christian Chui Yin-Chen, a Specialist in Psychiatrist and Licentiate Society council member. “The medical profession as

a whole has one of the highest rates of depression and anxiety disorders and we need to give priority in addressing this.”

“The 1000 plus non-locally trained doctors in Hong Kong, which hail from all parts around the world, have a shared interest in sustaining our health care system in face of the epidemic,” said Dr. Marcet. “While the demographics may be diverse, the concerns are universal and timely.” The Licentiate Society welcomes the opportunity to work collaboratively with health and medical organizations and others to foster partnership in addressing Hong Kong’s health care and medical needs.

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About the Medical Licentiate Society of Hong Kong

The Medical Licentiate Society of Hong Kong (香港執照醫生醫學會) is an independent, non-profit professional body representing licensed non-local medical graduate doctors in Hong Kong. The Licentiate Society was founded to support the LMCHK (Licentiate of the Medical Council of Hong Kong) community and to engage with the public and other medical professionals both in and out of Hong Kong. Supporting candidates of the Hong Kong Medical Licensing Examination is also a key part of the Licentiate Society’s mission. The Licentiate Society is the only incorporated entity dedicated to the LMCHK physician community.

Please visit the Licentiate Society website (lmchk.org) to learn more about the organization’s ongoing efforts in representing overseas, overland, and foreign doctors licensed in Hong Kong.

調查：香港非本地培訓醫生對新型冠狀病毒疫情影響之意見

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香港執照醫生醫學會 (下稱「執照醫生醫學會」或LMCHK) 向身在香港的非本地培訓醫生進行一項最新調查發現，近八成 (80%) 受訪者表示同意或非常同意新型冠狀病毒引發之疫情，已嚴重影響其臨床工作。調查更顯示，本港整體醫護界對疫情感到極為憂慮，必須對醫護前線給予更大支持共同抗疫。

執照醫生醫學會主席、眼科專科馬思特醫生 (Dr. Marcus Marcet) 表示：「整體而言，香港醫療系統是優秀的，但面對當前的疫情卻令現有系統承受了巨大壓力。通常每年

這段期間，會因應冬季流感高峰期而出現資源和人手緊絀的問題，但目前更為急切的憂慮是個人防護設備供應不足及疫情的受控程度。」

根據執照醫生醫學會調查，230位非本地培訓的醫生當中，近七成（68%）受訪者表示因擔心被感染而深受壓力，這是新型冠狀病毒爆發影響醫生臨床工作的主要原因。執照醫生醫學會成員、呼吸系統專科曹忠豪醫生表示：「由於2019新型冠狀病毒屬於高度傳播性，大規模傳播一觸即發，這肯定會使香港的醫療系統不堪負荷。」

為紓緩香港醫生人手不足的問題，招募海外醫生到香港行醫向來是長遠方案之一。是次調查中，超過一半的受訪者從歐洲各國的醫學院畢業，其次是來自內地醫學院的醫生，約佔五分之一。此外，受訪者中有近三分之二（65%）在香港的公營醫療機構服務，有一成半（15%）為私人執業，另有百分之十七（17%）正準備參加香港醫學執照考試。

如何應對疫症爆發的情況，不僅影響香港市民健康，亦對醫療系統本身帶來深遠影響。超過一半的受訪醫生（53%）表示，就香港面對新型冠狀病毒爆發的處理上，改變了他們對香港醫療系統的看法，甚至變得更負面和極不理想。近三分之二（64%）非本地培訓的執照醫生同意或非常同意這次疫情令招募更多非本地培訓醫生來香港更加困難。

調查結果顯示，超過八成醫生（84%）將香港當局在應對疫症爆發的反應評為一般或差劣。此外，大多數受訪者（60%）表示，其工作地方並沒有就疫情發展給予任何特別安排。

執照醫生醫學會成員、精神病專科徐英荃醫生指出：「面對目前疫情發展，對於醫療物資短缺、延遲全面封關，前線醫生感到十分焦慮是必然的。事實上，醫療界是其中一個抑鬱症和焦慮症發病率甚高的職業，我們必須及時及優先處理前線醫護同僚的需要。」

馬思特醫生進一步表示：「面對現時疫情，我們這1000多名非本地培訓的執照醫生將繼續與香港市民齊心抗疫。我們來自世界各地，但擁有一致的目標。執照醫生醫學會歡迎與不同公共衛生及醫療機構或組織合作，以滿足香港的公共衛生和醫療需求。」

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關於香港執照醫生醫學會

香港執照醫生醫學會（Medical Licentiate Society of Hong Kong）是一個獨立的非牟利專業機構，代表香港持牌非本地畢業醫生。執照醫生醫學會成立以協助香港醫務委員

會，並與香港內外的公眾和其他醫學專業人士進行交流。支持香港醫學執照考試的考生也是醫學會的重要使命。

請訪問醫學會網站 (<https://lmchk.org>)，以了解有關組織在香港獲得許可的海外，內地和外國醫生所做的持續努力的更多信息。
