

**HONG KONG
GOVERNMENT
INFORMATION
SERVICES**

**DAILY
INFORMATION
BULLETIN**

Sunday, May 21, 1972

PREVENTION OF ENTERIC DISEASES

Simple Rules To Follow

Enteric diseases are caused by ingestion of food or drinks contaminated by germs of these diseases, a spokesman for the Urban Services Department said today.

He said this in connection with the current Prevention of Enteric Diseases Campaign.

"These germs are usually of human origin and are conveyed to food and drinks through dirty hands, flies and polluted water," he added.

Vegetables with nightsoil as fertilizer, shell-fish collected in polluted water or meat from infected animals may also carry germs of these diseases.

"Enteric diseases can be prevented by following some very simple rules," the spokesman said.

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- (a) Keeping hands clean: Only clean hands can produce clean food. Wash hands with soap and water to remove germs after visiting toilet or attending children in lavatory. Wash hands before preparing food and eating too. Wounds on human body may contain germs which cause food poisoning. Cover up wounds on hands with water-proof dressings to protect food from contamination by these germs.
- (b) Protection of food and utensils from flies: Flies feed on excreta and their bodies are covered with filth and germs. Flies contaminate food when they feed on it. Keep food and drinks under wire-gauze cover or, better still in refrigerator to exclude flies. Utensils, particularly milk bottles and feeding equipment for infants, should be similarly protected. Food waste and food remnants attract flies. Put them in sealed plastic bags or wrap them up with several layers of newspaper before disposing into dust-bin. This will cut down smell and prevent fly attraction at home. Keep dust-bin covered at all times. Cooked food, titbits and cut-fruits exposed for sale by hawkers are always dangerous due to fly and dust contamination. Avoid buying this kind of food.
- (c) Protection of water supply from pollution: Water supplied by Government is safe to use. However, if buckets, dipper or rubber hoses are used for storing or drawing water, they may contaminate the water. Therefore water should be drawn directly from the taps but it is always better to boil water before drinking.

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- (d) Food hygiene: Wash food thoroughly and cook food adequately to remove and destroy germs. Consume food as soon as possible after preparation to avoid multiplication of germs. All left-overs should be re-cooked before eating. Any suspected unsound food should be rejected.
- (e) Immunization: Cholera and typhoid may be prevented by immunization. Inoculations are obtainable free of charge in Government vaccination centres, clinics and hospitals. However, it has been found that anti-cholera inoculation is not entirely effective and it is therefore still essential to pay special attention to food hygiene in order to prevent this dangerous disease.

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PROMENADE TO BE BUILT IN NORTH POINT

Squatter Huts To Be Cleared

A strip of land on the hillside below Tin Hau Temple Road, North Point, is to be cleared of squatter structures this week for the construction of a promenade.

The strip will also serve as a much needed "lung" for the area which has a population of about 130,000 with only six acres of open space.

The promenade will be about 1,000 feet long and 200 feet across. It will be turfed and will have benches as well as a small children's playground at one end.

Construction will start right after the clearance and is expected to take about three months to complete.

More than 100 structures, most of them used as pig sties will have to be cleared.

A spokesman for the Resettlement Department said that 23 families were living in huts there.

They have been offered resettlement or, if they do not qualify, space in licensed areas to rebuild their huts.

An ex gratia payment of more than \$45,000 has been made to 14 pig breeders. Nine others do not qualify because of the fact that they are newcomers.

The promenade is expected to be well used as the area around it is a favourite place for strollers.

Apart from the illegality, the pig breeders have been a constant source of complaints from residents living in the vicinity.

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Release Time: 3.00 p.m.