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President of HKPORI Robert Chung suggests people to set up mask cooperatives

After studying the latest findings of the Community Health Project, Robert Chung, the President and Chief Executive Officer of Hong Kong Public Opinion Research Institute (HKPORI), suggests people to set up “mask cooperatives” to tackle the still very tight demand for face masks although the overall demand has slightly relaxed, with the following reasons and details:

(1) According to the latest figures obtained from the “Community Health Information System” (CHIS), people’s “mask reserve” over the past 15 days has increased to 48 days. Brushing aside possible biases in the data, there should be enough masks on average to meet the people’s need for 1.5 months, excluding frontline medical staff and civil servants.

(2) Robert Chung proposes people to group together to form “mask cooperatives” using 6 weeks’ reserve as every individual’s benchmark. Any member having surplus reserves would then give the extra masks to the cooperative in the form of gift, loan or item for resale. Records will be kept, and when a member’s reserve goes below 4 weeks, one can claim or buy back some masks from the cooperative.

(3) The basic tenet of “mask cooperative” is the sharing of resources, capitals and risks based on mutual trust. The cooperative network can be friends and relatives, neighbors and community organizations. The main idea is people helping people.

(4) Latest information shows that there will soon be 2 million masks for free distribution, and local production lines will soon produce 12 million masks per month, including some re-usable products. If we can tackle our short-term needs, especially those of the old, weak, women, children and grassroots, we may be able to overcome the crisis together.

(5) HKPORI will continue to monitor people’s need via its “Community Health Project” by inviting people to submit their information to the system at <http://bit.ly/poricdche>. Once the reserve drops to an alarming level, it will immediately issue public warnings and invite better solutions.

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