

## GEK1900 Public Health in Action

### Semester 1 AY2014/2015

#### **General Notes before you start:**

A penalty will be applied to reports that exceed the word limit of 1000 (per essay). You are strongly advised not to exceed this limit.

You may use Turnitin to check for plagiarism before submitting your essays. Once submitted, we will check the Turnitin report, and submit your essay for Turnitin checks if you did not do so. Turnitin is very good at detecting copying, and any student who is found to have done so will be penalized: depending on the severity, this could range from losing marks for minor infringements, to failing the exercise, failing the module, or being expelled from the University. We thus advise that you attempt to answer the questions using your own words and to cite properly! If you are still unsure about what constitutes plagiarism, please check with us *before* submitting the work.

#### **Instructions for submitting essays for Turnitin checks:**

When you upload your file to the workbin, check the box "Submit the uploaded files for plagiarism check". It is just above the orange upload button. After you get the report, you can either remove your file for further revision or submit it.

Please note that you can submit files multiple times to check for plagiarism until the Workbin is closed. In order to overwrite the previous submission, you have to delete existing file and re-upload the file using the same file name.

#### **Assessment Rubric:**

The rubric will assess your evaluation of the evidence in the literature, your report's structure, rhetoric and style, the practicality of your proposals, and the appropriateness of your referencing.

#### **Submission by:**

16 November 2014, 6PM (submit in Word Document format via Turnitin/ IVLE, **please include name, matriculation number and question number in document name**). Late submission will not be entertained unless MC is provided. Note that you are expected to submit *both* essays, not to choose one.

### **Question 1**

Hand foot and mouth disease (HFMD) is caused by several viruses in the enterovirus (EV) family, including EV71 and Coxsackie A16 (CA16). These viruses spread easily in children and are widespread in East and South East Asia. Although infection is typically mild, in rare cases complications including death occur. Since the first recorded outbreak of HFMD in year 2000, Singapore has had the policy of closing preschools that have sustained outbreaks and has recently started “naming and shaming” them by displaying their names on the Ministry of Health (MOH) webpage and in other media, but despite these measures, HFMD has become endemic and occurs year round in our country.

A vaccine against EV71, one of the viruses causing HFMD, has recently been developed and undergone clinical trials in China. The results that have been published from the clinical trials appear promising.

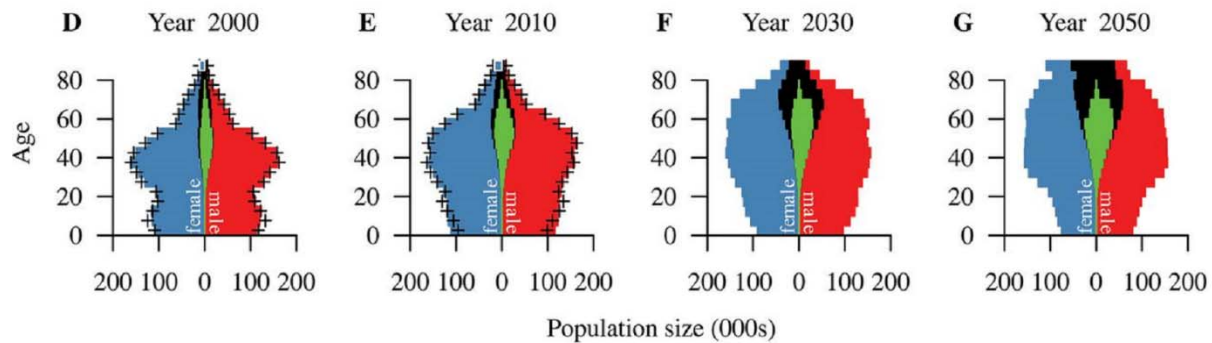
Singapore's MOH has set up a task force to reconsider its response to HFMD. Under consideration are two policy choices to be considered:

- (1) Changing the school closure policy by:
  - a. Removing it,
  - b. Amending it, or
  - c. Retaining it as-is, and
- (2) Whether the Chinese EV71 vaccine should be used in Singapore:
  - a. Not supported by the government at all,
  - b. As an optional vaccine with partial subsidy, or
  - c. Fully covered by the government.

Review the literature and write an argument in favour of what option you would recommend to our MOH to justify your decision vis-à-vis policies (1) and (2).

## Question 2

Source: *BMJ Open Diab Res Care* 2014;**2**:e000012 doi:10.1136/bmjdr-2013-000012



- (1) A population pyramid shows the demographic changes that take place in the population with time. Global health practitioners are often asked to gather information, analyse and summarize the health status of populations.

The above diagrams represent the population pyramid of Singapore from 2000 to a projected profile in 2050.

- Explain what has happened to the relative size of the different cohorts in your country over time and what health consequences this translates into?
- Taking into consideration the socio-ecological model, propose 3 types of interventions to the Ministry of Health in Singapore given the types of changes expected in the demographic profile of the country in 2050.

\*\*\*\*\***END**\*\*\*\*\*