

For Immediate Release

Hong Kong, 26 March 2003 – The Bank of East Asia, Limited wishes to notify its customers and members of the public that a staff member of its Lei Tung Estate Branch, located at Shop No. 104, G/F, Commercial Centre at Lei Tung Estate, is suspected to have contracted atypical pneumonia.

Service at the Lei Tung Estate Branch is suspended with immediate effect.

Investigation has shown that the staff member most likely contracted the disease from a member of his own family.

The staff member became ill on Sunday, 23 March. Customers and members of the public who may have visited the Lei Tung Estate Branch recently are advised to seek medical advice should they notice any symptoms of the disease.

Staff members at the branch have been placed on leave for seven days with immediate effect. Although no other member of staff at the Lei Tung Estate Branch has shown symptoms of the disease, their condition will continue to be monitored throughout the incubation period, and all necessary assistance provided.

The BEA Lei Tung Estate Branch will reopen on 28 March, once thorough disinfectant measures have been implemented. Service will be provided by staff seconded from other BEA branches.

For further information, please contact the BEA Customer Service Hotline on 2211 1333, or visit the Department of Health's special website on Atypical Pneumonia at <http://www.info.gov.hk/dh/ap.htm>.

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For press enquiries, please contact:
Salina Tong
Head of Corporate Communications
The Bank of East Asia

Tel: 2842 3063