



中華人民共和國香港特別行政區政府總部教育局

Education Bureau

Government Secretariat, The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
The People's Republic of China

本局檔號 Our Ref.: EDB(SD_CT)ADM/20/05/1(1)

電話 Telephone:

12 May 2009

To: Supervisors/Principals of all Kindergartens,
Kindergarten cum Child Care Centres, Secondary, Primary and Special Schools
(including international schools and schools under English Schools Foundation)

Dear Supervisor/Principal,

Measures Against the Spread of Human Swine Influenza

To guard against human swine influenza (HSI), the Government's present strategy is containment for as long as it takes to delay community transmission of the disease. Though there is no sign of spread of HSI in the community for the time being, we have to stay vigilant and get well prepared.

The Secretary for Food and Health released at a press conference today that the Administration would consider the latest development to decide whether there is a need to adjust the strategy in combating the disease. At present clinical severity of HSI on young people remains uncertain and the spread of disease, as with most other respiratory viruses, is particularly serious in young children. As a prudent measure, when the first local HSI case occurs without identifiable link, suspension of classes in the first instance for up to 14 days in kindergarten, kindergarten-cum-child care centres, primary schools and special schools would be carefully considered and be reviewed as appropriate.

Our Bureau has been working closely with the Department of Health and will notify schools at an appropriate time if there is a need to suspend classes. If class suspension would affect the administration of the Territory-wide System Assessment, release of results and registration procedures in respect of school places allocations or conduct of the Pre-Secondary One Hong Kong Attainment Test, we will make separate announcements where appropriate. Similarly, the Hong Kong Examinations and

Assessment Authority will announce separately the detailed arrangements for HKALE and HKCEE if necessary. As for large-scale activities, schools should consult parents to see whether adjustments to the programmes have to be made after taking into account the latest HSI development.

To help schools in their prevention against HSI, we have compiled a “Handbook on Prevention of Human Swine Influenza in Schools” covering topics on basic principles in preventing the diseases, day-to-day preventive measures and arrangements to be made by schools during class suspension and upon resumption of classes etc. The Chinese version of the handbook has been uploaded to the EDB website and the English version will be available soon. Schools can browse and download the handbook via the path below:

EDB Homepage > School Administration > Administration > Prevention of Influenza and Other Communicable Diseases in Schools > 1. Prevention of Human Swine Influenza > Guidelines > Handbook on Prevention of Human Swine Influenza in Schools

Schools should continue adopting precautionary measures and keep the campuses clean. Please also remind parents again to attend to their children’s personal hygiene and to keep their homes clean.

Our Bureau would release the latest information on HSI from time to time. Schools are advised to pay attention to the latest information on HSI to be released in EDB website. For enquiries, please contact your respective Senior School Development Officer/Pre-primary Services Officer.

Yours sincerely,



(S K LEUNG)

for Secretary for Education