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17 May 2009

Dear Principal/Person-in-charge,

### **The Third Imported Case of Human Swine Influenza (HSI) in Hong Kong**

I am writing to inform you that we have confirmed the third imported case of HIS (Influenza A/H1N1) today.

The patient is a 23-year-old student, a Guangdong resident studying in the United States. He developed cough and runny nose on 14 May 2009 when he was in the United States. He developed fever while on the flight from New York to Hong Kong (Cathay Pacific Flight number CX831 & shared flight code AA6091, at row 60). Upon arrival at Hong Kong in the evening of 16 May 2009, he was found to have fever at the airport and was transferred directly to Princess Margaret Hospital for isolation. He remained clinically stable and his respiratory specimens were tested positive for human swine influenza (Influenza A/H1N1) today. The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) is tracing people with opportunities to have contact with the patient.

Young children are particularly susceptible to influenza transmission and school outbreaks are common from North America experience. Spread of HSI, as with most other respiratory viruses, is particularly important in young children. Clinical severity of HSI on young people also remains uncertain.

When the first local HSI case occurs (i.e. the occurrence of a confirmed local case that has no identifiable link, such as travel to an affected area in the previous 7 days, or exposure to a confirmed index case with such history or his secondary contacts), the Government may consider closing all primary schools, kindergartens and nurseries for up to 14 days and the arrangements will be reviewed as appropriate.



There are also concerns about overseas students coming back to Hong Kong for summer break. They are advised to defer their flight if they feel sick. If they develop fever on the plane, they should inform the aircrew so that our port health officials would take care of them upon their arrival. If they fall ill after returning to Hong Kong, they should wear a mask and consult a doctor immediately.

The CHP has been working closely with the Education Bureau and Social Welfare Department on measures against the spread of HSI. Schools and pre-primary institutions will be informed at an appropriate time if there is a need to suspend classes. If you notice an increase in respiratory illnesses or absenteeism among your staff or students, please report to our Central Notification Office (Tel: 2477-2772; Fax: 2477-2770) for immediate epidemiological investigations and outbreak control.

For the latest information and health education material on HSI, please see our CHP website at [www.chp.gov.hk](http://www.chp.gov.hk).

Yours faithfully,



(Dr. SK CHUANG)

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