



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(SDCT)2/ADM/60/1/1(12)

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4 February 2015

To: Supervisors/Principals of all Schools

Dear Supervisor/Principal,

Stay Vigilant against the Spread of Influenza and other Respiratory Infections
Additional Measure on Temperature Monitoring

According to the Centre for Health Protection (CHP), the current influenza activity in Hong Kong is very high and may further increase in the coming weeks. A copy of the letter issued by the CHP today is enclosed at the Appendix for your reference.

In view of the latest development of the communicable disease, we would like to urge schools to put in place the additional measure on temperature monitoring according to the advice provided in the attached letter. Schools are also advised to disseminate information on the suggested measures on preventing influenza and other respiratory tract infections to parents and enlist their cooperation to upkeep students' personal and environmental hygiene so as to tie in with the precautionary measures taken by schools against the spread of influenza in schools.

If a suspected outbreak of communicable disease occurs in school or an increasing trend or unusual situation in the number of persons taking sick leave with similar symptoms or due to the same infectious disease (for example, three or more students in the same class develop symptoms of respiratory tract infections within a short

time), schools should report the case to the Central Notification Office of CHP immediately (Fax No.: 2477 2770; Tel No.: 2477 2772) by completing the "Suspected Infectious Disease Outbreak in School/ Kindergarten / KG-cum-CCC/ Child Care Centre Notification Form" to facilitate CHP's early epidemiological investigation and outbreak control. Schools should also forward a copy of the Notification Form to their respective Regional Education Offices / Joint Office for Kindergartens and Child Care Centres.

In addition, for more effective prevention against the spread of communicable diseases in the campus, schools should assign designated staff or a crisis management team to coordinate and oversee matters relating to the hygienic conditions of the school environment and to brief students/staff and parents on the relevant preventive measures.

We will continue to keep in close contact with the CHP and release the latest information on communicable diseases to schools.

As the Chinese New Year vacation is approaching, please advise parents to avoid visiting crowded or poorly-ventilated places with their children as far as possible. Parents should take notice of the health conditions of their children. In case fever or symptoms of respiratory viral infections are noted, they should consult their doctors promptly.

For enquiries, please contact your respective Senior School Development Officers/Senior Services Officers.

Yours sincerely,



(Ms LI Mei-fun)
for Secretary for Education

監測及流行病學處



Surveillance
And
Epidemiology
Branch

本署檔號 Our Ref. : (94) in DH SEB CD/8/27/1 Pt.19

February 4, 2015

Dear Principal / Person-in-charge,

Additional Measure on Temperature Monitoring

Further to our letter dated February 2, we may wish to inform you that the current influenza activity in Hong Kong is very high and may further increase in the coming weeks. Besides, the severity as reflected by the weekly number of severe influenza cases recorded was higher than the previous winter seasons. Based on historical data, winter influenza seasons in Hong Kong may usually last about two to three months, although longer durations have been recorded occasionally. In this regard, we would like to urge you to reinforce preventive measures in schools, kindergartens and child care centres so as to mitigate the impact of seasonal influenza.

Young children, elderly and patients with chronic diseases are more prone to influenza infection and its complications. As institutions and organisations are collective assembly places, infectious diseases such as influenza could easily spread among people through their daily contact. Sources of infection could come from staff, visitors or clients (especially those just discharged from hospitals).

Starting from today, schools should actively check the body temperature of all students every day when they arrive at school so as to identify students with fever. To prevent outbreaks of influenza and other respiratory infections, it is of prime importance that children with fever (oral temperature higher than 37.5°C, or ear temperature higher than 38°C), regardless of the presence of respiratory symptom, should not be allowed to attend school. They should be advised to seek medical advice and should avoid school till 48 hours after the fever has subsided. Staff should also check their temperature before work every day and staff with respiratory illnesses or fever should refrain from work.

It is also important to measure and record students' body temperature properly. Please refer to Section 2.3 of the 'Guidelines on Prevention of



衛生防護中心乃衛生署
轄下執行疾病預防
及控制的專業架構
The Centre for Health
Protection is a
professional arm of the
Department of Health for
disease prevention and
control

Communicable Diseases in Schools / Kindergartens / Kindergartens-cum-Child Care Centres / Child Care Centres ' published by the CHP for detailed information on monitoring of body temperature, which can be accessed at

http://www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/guidelines_on_prevention_of_communicable_diseases_in_schools_kindergartens_kindergartens_cum_child_care-centres_child_care_centres.pdf.

In addition, the following measures are advised to prevent influenza and respiratory tract infections:

- To receive seasonal influenza vaccination for personal protection;
- To build up good body immunity by having a proper diet, regular exercise and adequate rest, reducing stress and avoiding smoking;
- To maintain good personal and environmental hygiene;
- To keep hands clean and wash hands properly;
- To cover nose and mouth while sneezing or coughing and dispose of nasal and mouth discharge properly;
- To wash hands after sneezing, coughing or cleaning the nose;
- To maintain good ventilation;
- To avoid going to crowded or poorly ventilated public places when influenza is prevalent; **high-risk individuals may consider putting on surgical masks when staying in such places**; and
- To wear surgical mask and seek medical advice promptly if symptoms of respiratory tract infection or fever develop.

If you notice an increase in respiratory illnesses or absenteeism among your students, clients or staff, please report promptly to our Central Notification Office (Tel: 2477-2772; Fax: 2477-2770) for immediate epidemiological investigations and outbreak control. Thank you.

The latest information on influenza activity can be found in the following website: http://www.chp.gov.hk/en/view_content/14843.html.

Yours faithfully,



(Dr. SK Chuang)

for Controller, Centre for Health Protection
Department of Health