

本署檔號 Our Ref. :
來函檔號 Your Ref. :
電話 Tel. :
傳真 Fax No. : (852) 2711 4847

23 May 2009

Dear Principal/Person-in-charge,

**The Fifth and Sixth Imported Cases of Human Swine Influenza
in Hong Kong**

I am writing to inform you that we have confirmed the fifth and sixth imported cases of HSI (Influenza A/H1N1) today.

The fifth imported case is a 20 years old student who lived in New York. She developed sore throat and cough with sputum on 19 May when she was in the States. She travelled from New York to Hong Kong (Cathay Pacific, CX831, sharecode AA609, row 31) and arrived Hong Kong on 22 May. She was found febrile by temperature screening at the Airport.

The sixth imported case is a 53 years old man, who travelled from San Francisco to Hong Kong (United Airlines, UA869, row 50) and arrived Hong Kong on 22 May. He had onset of symptom on the flight and was found febrile by temperature screening at the Airport. Both of them were transferred directly to Princess Margaret Hospital for isolation.

Their specimens are positive for human swine influenza (Influenza A/H1N1) today. Their conditions are stable. Both patients travelled alone. We are tracing the flight passengers sitting on the same row, 3 rows in front and behind the case on flight CX831 and UA 869 (both arrived HKSAR on 22 May) and the crew members who have served the same section of the cabin.

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.

Yours faithfully,



(Dr. SK CHUANG)

Consultant Community Medicine (Communicable Disease)
Centre for Health Protection
Department of Health

