



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.: (88) in EDB(SD/CT)2/ADM/60/1/1(8) 電話 Telephone:

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26 February 2013

To: Supervisors/Principals of all Schools

Dear Supervisor/Principal,

Be Vigilant against Communicable Diseases

According to the latest surveillance data of the Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health (DH), Hong Kong has entered Influenza Season. Apart from influenza, there is also an increasing public concern about issues related to other communicable diseases, like Novel Coronavirus Infection. In response to the public concern, the CHP of the DH has issued a letter to advise schools to stay vigilant against Severe Respiratory Disease associated with Novel Coronavirus on 25 February 2013.

A copy of the relevant letter issued on 25 February 2013 by the CHP of the DH is enclosed for your reference (Appendix). Taking this opportunity, we would like to advise schools to make reference to our letter issued to all schools on 29 August 2012 to put in place various hygienic and preventive measures against communicable diseases.

Schools may also refer to the "Guidelines on Prevention of Communicable Diseases in Schools/ Kindergartens/ Kindergarten cum Child Care Centres/ Child Care Centres" to implement proper preventive measures and convey the relevant information to parents immediately when situation warrants.

Schools can get access to the letter and the Guidelines via the following path:

EDB Homepage (www.edb.gov.hk) > School Administration and Management > Administration > About School > Prevention of Communicable Diseases in Schools > A. Latest Information

This Bureau will continue to keep in contact with the CHP so as to disseminate important messages to schools promptly. For enquiries, please contact your respective Senior School Development Officers/Senior Services Officers.

Yours sincerely,



(Miss P.L. WU)

for Secretary for Education

監測及流行病學處



衛生防護中心
Centre for Health Protection

保障市民健康
Protecting Hong Kong's health

Surveillance
And
Epidemiology
Branch

本署編號 Our Ref. : (55) in DH SEB CD/8/93/1

25 February, 2013

Dear Principal / Person in charge,

**Vigilance against Severe Respiratory Disease associated with Novel
Coronavirus**

I would like to update you on the latest development of severe respiratory disease associated with novel coronavirus (NCoV). As of 21 February 2013, a total of 13 confirmed cases of human infection with NCoV were reported, including 7 deaths. Of the 13 confirmed cases, 6 were from Saudi Arabia, 2 from Qatar, 2 from Jordan and 3 from the United Kingdom (UK). According to the World Health Organization (WHO), the latest two cases confirmed in the UK had no recent travel history, which offering indications of person-to-person transmission, although no sustained transmissions or expanding clusters of infections have been identified in any country. WHO and relevant health authorities are still investigating the exact route of transmission. Preventive and control measures have put in place and no cases of NCoV infection have been detected in Hong Kong so far.

Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses which include viruses that may cause mild illness like common cold as well as severe illness like severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) in humans. The main symptoms in severe cases of NCoV infection identified so far include fever, cough and shortness of breath. This NCoV is different from any coronaviruses (including SARS-coronavirus) that have previously been found in humans or animals. The mode of transmission is not known with certainty at this time though coronaviruses are typically spread like other respiratory infections such as influenza. This virus may remain viable in the environment for some time and they are easily destroyed by most detergents and cleaning agents.



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

To prevent NCoV infection and other respiratory illnesses, the following measures are advised:

- To avoid direct contact with animals or birds and poultry;

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- 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 avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth with bare hands;
- To maintain good ventilation;
- To avoid visiting crowded places with poor ventilation;
- To clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces, furnitures, commonly shared items and floor at least daily by using appropriate disinfectant (For non-metallic surface, disinfect with 1 part of household bleach in 99 parts of water, wait until dry and then rinse with water. For metallic surface, disinfect with 70% alcohol); and
- To wear surgical mask and seek medical advice promptly if symptoms of respiratory tract infection or fever develop.

You may wish to note that the Centre for Health Protection (CHP) has issued guidelines to school on prevention of NCoV infection and the related document can be accessed at [http://www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/advice to school on prevention of novel coronavirus infection.pdf](http://www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/advice%20to%20school%20on%20prevention%20of%20novel%20coronavirus%20infection.pdf)).

Besides, if you notice an increase in respiratory illnesses or absenteeism among children or staff in your institution, please report promptly to our Central Notification Office (Tel: 2477 2772; Fax: 2477 2770) for immediate epidemiological investigations and outbreak control. For the latest information on severe respiratory disease associated with NCoV, please visit the website of the Centre for Health Protection (www.chp.gov.hk).

Yours faithfully,



(Dr. SK CHUANG)
for Controller, Centre for Health Protection
Department of Health