

本署檔號 Our Ref.: (23) in DH SEB CD/8/6/1 XIV

20 March 2007

Dear Principal,

**9-month-old girl confirmed with Influenza A (H9N2) infection**

We are writing to inform you that we have confirmed a human case of influenza A (H9N2) infection today. The patient is a 9-month-old girl who presented with fever and upper respiratory symptoms and was admitted to a public hospital from March 6 to March 9. The nasopharyngeal aspirate was subsequently tested positive for influenza A (H9N2). Preliminary epidemiological investigation revealed that the girl visited a wet market in Tseung Kwan O district before illness onset. The source of infection is being investigated.

Human influenza A (H9N2) infection is not new to Hong Kong. Similar cases were reported in 1999 and 2003. Unlike influenza A (H5N1) infection, previous cases with Influenza A (H9N2) infection presented only with mild illness with full recovery. The present patient also had mild symptoms, compatible with previous ones. There is no need for undue alarm but it is important to be vigilant against avian influenza.

To prevent avian influenza, the following measures are advised:

- Avoid direct contact with birds and poultry
  - Avoid touching poultry, birds or their droppings, because they may carry the avian influenza virus.
  - Wash hands thoroughly with liquid soap and water immediately in case of contact with poultry, birds or their droppings.
- Maintain good personal hygiene
  - Keep hands clean and wash hands properly.
  - Cover nose and mouth while sneezing or coughing. Dispose sputum or secretions wrapped in tissue paper into rubbish bins with lids. Wash hands with liquid soap and water afterwards.
- Build up good body resistance and have a healthy lifestyle. This can be achieved through a balanced diet, regular exercise, adequate rest, reducing stress and no smoking.
- Poultry and eggs should be thoroughly cooked before eating.
- Maintain good environmental hygiene
  - Maintain good indoor ventilation.
  - Avoid crowded places with poor ventilation if feeling unwell.
- Seek medical advice if fever or respiratory symptoms develop

Yours sincerely,



(Dr SK Chuang)

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