

本署檔號 Our Ref. : (82) in DH CDB/9/17/5 Pt.1

3 January 2020

Dear Principal / Person-in-charge,

Updates on the cluster of pneumonia cases in Wuhan of Mainland

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health writes to update you on the latest situation of the cluster of pneumonia cases in Wuhan of Hubei Province(湖北省武漢市).

According to the latest information available from the National Health Commission (NHC) on 3 January 2020, there were a total of 44 pneumonia cases with unknown cause detected in Wuhan since December 2019 (as of 8 a.m., January 3, 2020). Among them, 11 cases (25%) were in serious condition and the remaining cases were in stable condition. Symptoms were mainly fever while a few had presented with shortness of breath. All patients have been isolated and receiving treatment. Contact tracing has identified 121 close contacts and medical surveillance by the Wuhan health authority is ongoing. Epidemiological investigations revealed that some cases were persons working in the market called “華南海鮮城”. It remained unknown whether the other cases had epidemiological linkage to this market. However, the NHC reported that no obvious human-to-human transmission has been observed and no healthcare workers have been infected for the time being. Influenza viruses, avian influenza viruses and other common respiratory pathogens like adenovirus have been excluded as the cause. The causative pathogen and cause of infection are still under investigation.

In light of the latest situation, the CHP has enhanced the surveillance on pneumonia cases with recent travel history to Wuhan (irrespective of exposure to wet market or seafood market). The CHP has set up a designated webpage (<https://www.chp.gov.hk/en/features/102465.html>) to provide update information and health advice. Information of the cases reported under the above enhanced surveillance will be updated on a daily basis on the above webpage.



Students or staff should wear a mask and consult doctors promptly if

they have fever / respiratory symptoms, and inform the doctor of their travel and exposure history. Symptomatic students or staff should not attend schools. They are advised to:

- Perform hand hygiene frequently, especially before touching the mouth, nose or eyes; after touching public installations such as handrails or door knobs; or when hands are contaminated by respiratory secretion after coughing or sneezing.
- Wash hands with liquid soap and water, and rub for at least 20 seconds. Then rinse with water and dry with a disposable paper towel or hand dryer. If hand washing facilities are not available, or when hands are not visibly soiled, hand hygiene with 70 to 80 per cent alcohol-based handrub is an effective alternative.
- Cover mouth and nose with tissue paper when sneezing or coughing. Dispose of soiled tissues into a lidded rubbish bin, then wash hands thoroughly.
- When having respiratory symptoms, wear a surgical mask, refrain from work or attending class at school, avoid going to crowded places and seek medical advice promptly.
- Avoid making close contact with patients, especially those with symptoms of acute respiratory infections.
- Avoid touching animals / poultry/ birds or their droppings.
- Avoid visiting wet markets, live poultry markets or farms.
- Adhere to food safety and hygiene rules such as avoiding consuming raw or undercooked animal products, including milk, eggs and meat, or foods which may be contaminated by animal secretions, excretions (such as urine) or contaminated products, unless they have been properly cooked, washed or peeled.

If you notice an increase in fever / pneumonia / respiratory illnesses among students or staff, please report promptly to our Central Notification Office (Tel: 2477 2772; Fax: 2477 2770) for prompt epidemiological investigations and outbreak control.

Yours faithfully,



(Dr. SK Chuang)

for Controller, Centre for Health Protection
Department of Health