

本署檔號 Our Ref. : (15) in DH CDB/9/12/6 Pt.2

January 16, 2020

Dear Principal / Person-in-charge,

**An Imported Case of Infection of Novel Coronavirus in Japan and
Additional Measure on Temperature Monitoring**

The Centre of Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health writes to inform you of a case of novel coronavirus infection reported by the Japan, and alert you to remain vigilance.

According to information from the health authority of Japan, the case involved a male patient in his thirties who is living in Kanagawa, Japan. The patient, who had earlier travelled to Wuhan, Hubei Province, developed fever on January 3 and returned to Japan on January 6 and sought medical attention on the same day. He was admitted to a local hospital on January 10 and was discharged on January 15. He was tested positive for the novel coronavirus on January 15. According to the patient, he did not visit the "Hua Nan Seafood Market" in Wuhan but had contact with a pneumonia patient while he was in Wuhan.

In view of the latest situation, schools and organisations are advised to heighten the prevention and control measures against infectious diseases. Sources of infection could come from staff, visitors or students (especially those having active symptoms). In this regard, we would like to urge you to reinforce temperature screening in schools, kindergartens and child care centres.

Schools should actively check the body temperature of all students every day when they arrive at school so as to identify students with fever. Staff should also check their temperature before work every day and staff with respiratory illnesses or fever should refrain from work. This additional measure should continue until further notice by the CHP.



To prevent outbreaks of influenza and other respiratory tract infections, it is of prime importance that children or staff with fever (oral temperature

higher than 37.5°C, or ear temperature higher than 38°C), regardless of the presence of respiratory symptoms, should not be allowed to attend school. They should wear a mask and consult doctors promptly if they have fever/respiratory symptoms, and inform the doctor of their travel and exposure history.

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

To prevent pneumonia and respiratory tract infection, please kindly remind your students and staff to maintain good personal and environmental hygiene. 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.
- Maintain drainage pipes properly and add water to the U-traps regularly to ensure environmental hygiene.
- 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. If hand washing facilities are not available, or when hands are not visibly soiled, performing 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.
- When travelling outside Hong Kong, avoid visiting hospitals. If it is necessary to visit a hospital, put on a surgical mask and observe strict personal and hand hygiene.
- Avoid making close contact with patients, especially those with symptoms of acute respiratory infections.

- Avoid touching animals (including game), poultry / birds or their droppings.
- Avoid visiting wet markets, live poultry markets or farms.
- Do not consume game meat and do not patronize food premises where game meat is served.
- 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.

For the latest updates and prevention measures, please refer to below webpages for more information:

- Webpage on Personal Hygiene
(<https://www.chp.gov.hk/en/healthtopics/content/460/19899.html>)
- Video on "Prevent diseases · Maintain good hygiene"
(<https://youtu.be/X0OxrsgAP2w>)
- Webpage on “Severe Respiratory Disease associated with a Novel Infectious Agent”
(<https://www.chp.gov.hk/en/features/102465.html>)

Please draw the attention of the students and staff in your school to the above. Thank you for your ongoing support in combating communicable diseases.

Yours faithfully,



(Dr. SK Chuang)

for Controller, Centre for Health Protection
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