

本署檔號 Our Ref. : (7) in DH CDB/8/27/1 Pt. 24

2 November 2023

Dear Principal / Person-in-charge,

End of Summer Influenza Season in Hong Kong

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health announced the end of the summer influenza season which started in late August this year. Schools should continue to advise students and staff to maintain personal, hand and environmental hygiene against respiratory infections, including seasonal influenza, COVID-19 and *Mycoplasma pneumoniae* infection. The normal practice on identification of students with fever in your school can be resumed. CHP has issued guidelines to schools on prevention of communicable diseases 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_are_centres.pdf.

To prevent outbreaks of respiratory infections, students 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. Staff should be alert of their own conditions and should refrain from work if they have fever or respiratory symptoms.

If you notice an increase in fever or respiratory symptoms among students or staff, please report promptly to our Central Notification Office (Tel: 2477 2772; Fax: 2477 2770; Email: diseases@dh.gov.hk) for prompt epidemiological investigations and appropriate control measures. For the latest information on influenza activity, please refer to the “COVID-19 & Flu Express” (<https://www.chp.gov.hk/en/resources/29/100148.html>).

COVID-19 activity still persists in the community. Besides, influenza season usually arrives in winter months (in late 2023 to early 2024). CHP will continue to closely monitor the situation. As influenza viruses and the SARS-CoV-2 virus may both spread at the same time, members of the public, including young children, are strongly urged to receive vaccination as early as possible for effective protection against COVID-19 and influenza. Details of receiving both COVID-19 vaccination and seasonal influenza vaccination are available online (<https://www.chp.gov.hk/en/features/106096.html>).



Thank you for your unfailing support in prevention and control of communicable diseases.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in red ink, appearing to read 'SK Chuang', is centered on the page.

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