

本署檔號 Our Ref. : (81) in DH CDB/8/27/1 Pt. 24

10 September 2025

Dear Principal / Person-in-charge,

Hong Kong Enters 2025 Summer Influenza Season
and Additional Measure on Temperature Monitoring

We would like to alert you that the local seasonal influenza activity has continued to increase recently, indicating that Hong Kong has entered the 2025 summer influenza season. The community should heighten vigilance and take proper personal protection measures against influenza and other respiratory infections.

The latest surveillance data from the Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health showed that the weekly percentage of respiratory specimens testing positive for seasonal influenza viruses during the week of August 31 to September 6 has exceeded the baseline threshold and is higher than that recorded during the preceding week (August 24 to 30).

With the start of the new school term, there has been a significant increase in influenza-like illness (ILI) outbreaks in schools. The number of ILI outbreaks rose from four (affecting 25 people) in the week ending August 30 to 15 (affecting 202 people) in the week ending September 6. In the first three days of this week (September 7 to 9), 24 school ILI outbreaks (affecting 276 people) were recorded, with four cases involving 20 to 98 people. Members of the public should maintain good personal protection against seasonal influenza and other respiratory infections. High-risk groups such as children, the elderly and patients with chronic diseases should promptly seek medical advice if influenza-like symptoms develop so that appropriate treatment can be initiated as early as possible to prevent complications.



Young children, the elderly and patients with chronic diseases are prone to influenza infection and its complications. As schools and organisations are collective assembly places, infectious diseases such as influenza and other respiratory infections could be easily spread among people through their daily contacts. 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 preventive measures in schools, kindergartens and child care centres so as to mitigate the impact of seasonal influenza.

Schools should actively check the body temperature of all students every day during this influenza season when they arrive at school so as to identify students with fever. This additional measure should continue until the local influenza activity returns to the baseline level. By then, the CHP will inform you via another letter.

To prevent outbreaks of influenza and other respiratory infections, it is of prime importance that children 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 refrain from work if they have fever or respiratory symptoms.

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_are_centres.pdf.

If you notice an increase in fever or respiratory illnesses 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.

Vaccination has been scientifically proven to be one of the most effective means to prevent severe cases of seasonal influenza and its complications. It also reduces the risks of in-patient admission and mortality due to seasonal influenza. Getting vaccinated well before the winter influenza season can effectively protect one's health and that of one's family. The 2025/26 Seasonal Influenza Vaccination (SIV) Programmes, including the SIV School Outreach Programme and the Vaccination Subsidy Scheme (VSS), will commence on September 25. Eligible groups can receive free or subsidised SIV through various vaccination programmes. Notably, in the 2025/26 SIV School Outreach Programme, all schools may choose to use the live attenuated influenza vaccine (LAIV (nasal vaccines)) and "hybrid mode", i.e. schools being allowed to choose both injectable inactivated influenza vaccines (IIV) and LAIV for the same or different outreach vaccination

activities.

Besides receiving SIV for personal protection, schools should continue to advise students and staff to maintain personal, hand and environmental hygiene against influenza and other respiratory infections. The following measures are advised:

- Maintain hand hygiene, avoid touching one's eyes, mouth and nose;
- Wash hands with liquid soap and water properly whenever possibly contaminated;
- Cover the nose and mouth with tissue paper when sneezing or coughing. Dispose of soiled tissue paper properly into a lidded rubbish bin, and wash hands thoroughly afterwards;
- Maintain good indoor ventilation;
- Wear a mask properly, including performing hand hygiene before wearing and after removing a mask;
- Wear a mask when getting into contact with persons with fever or respiratory symptoms; taking public transportation or staying at crowded places; and high risk persons should wear a surgical mask when visiting public place;
- When having respiratory symptoms, wear a surgical mask, refrain from work or attending classes at school, avoid going to crowded places and seek medical advice promptly; and
- Build up good body immunity by having a balanced diet, exercise regularly, take adequate rest, do not smoke and avoid overstress.

For the latest information on influenza and prevention measures, please visit the CHP's pages:

- The influenza page (<https://www.chp.gov.hk/en/features/14843.html>)
- Prevention of Seasonal Influenza Infographic (https://www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/prevention_of_seasonal_influenza.pdf)

Yours faithfully,



(Dr Albert AU)

for Controller, Centre for Health Protection
Department of Health