

本署檔號 Our Ref. : (16) in DH CDB/8/27/1 Pt. 25

3 July 2026

Dear Principal / Person-in-charge,

Arrival of Influenza Season and Increased in COVID-19 Activity

We would like to alert you that the local seasonal influenza activity has continued to increase recently and exceeded the baseline levels in late June, indicating that Hong Kong has entered an influenza season. In addition, the local COVID-19 activity has also risen continually in recent weeks. The community should heighten vigilance and take proper personal protection measures against influenza, COVID-19 and other respiratory infections.

The latest surveillance data from the Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health showed that both weekly percentage of respiratory specimens testing positive for seasonal influenza viruses and influenza-associated admission rate in public hospitals exceeded the baseline levels. Currently, the predominating circulating virus is influenza A(H3), followed by influenza A(H1) and influenza B.

The number of institutional influenza-like illness (ILI) outbreaks rose to 46 last week, higher than the weekly average of about 24 in the preceding four weeks. About 70% of the outbreaks occurred in schools, of which about 70% of cases were from primary schools.

Separately, the overall activity of COVID-19 has continued to rise since May this year. The number of COVID-19 outbreaks has also increased to 6 last week, higher than the weekly average of about 1 in May.

Young children, the elderly and patients with chronic diseases are prone to influenza infection and COVID-19, and their complications. As schools and organisations are collective assembly places, infectious diseases such as influenza, COVID-19 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 and COVID-19 on students and staff.



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, COVID-19 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.

Members of the public should take proper personal protection measures against influenza, COVID-19 and other respiratory infections. Individuals who have not yet received their initial dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, especially young children over 6 months old and the elderly, should receive an initial dose as soon as possible. Apart from vaccination, in order to prevent influenza, COVID-19 and other respiratory infections, schools should continue to advise students and staff to maintain personal, hand and environmental hygiene. 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; and
- When having respiratory symptoms, especially children, the elderly and those with underlying illnesses, wear a surgical mask, refrain from work or attending classes at school, avoid going to crowded places and seek medical advice promptly so that appropriate treatment can be initiated as early as possible to prevent complications.

For the latest information on influenza and prevention measures, please visit the CHP's pages: <https://www.chp.gov.hk/en/features/14843.html>.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Dr Albert AU', written in a cursive style.

(Dr Albert AU)

for Controller, Centre for Health Protection
Department of Health